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Woodland Caribou

Signature Site

Preliminary Strategy

Ontario

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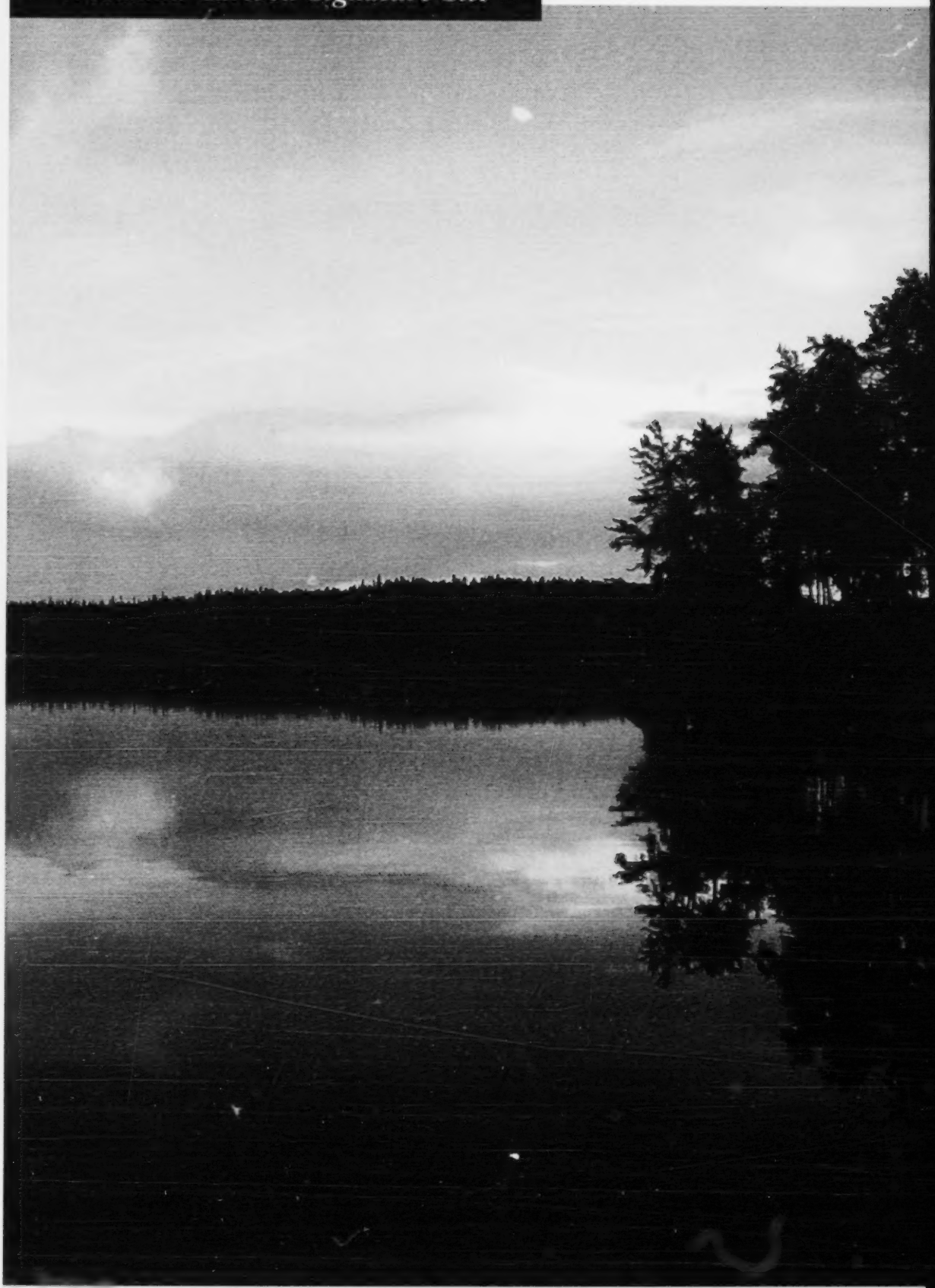
Woodland Caribou Signature Site

Woodland Caribou Signature Site



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APPROVAL STATEMENT

The Ministry of Natural Resources is working towards an approved strategy for the Woodland Caribou Signature Site. We are pleased to approve the *Woodland Caribou Signature Site Preliminary Strategy*.

This preliminary strategy provides the proposed land use direction for the protection, conservation and development of the various natural resources within the land use designations of the signature site.

This preliminary strategy implements the recommendations of the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999)*, provides overall guidance for resource management and recreation activities, and provides the context for management plans for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, recommended park additions and Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve, and resource management guidelines for the Pipestone Bay - McIntosh Enhanced Management Area.

We invite you to review and comment on this document. All comments will become part of the public record for the duration of the planning process. Comments will be available for public review upon request, unless privacy is requested, pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. Please indicate in your comments if you wish your name not to be made public.

Once public consultation is complete, the planning team will review and summarize the comments received. Based on this information, an approved Signature Site Strategy will be written to guide future resource management, recreation and development.

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Statement of Environmental Values Under the Environmental Bill of Rights

In accordance with the provisions of The Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR), the Ministry of Natural Resources has prepared a Statement of Environmental Values. This Statement of Environmental Values will consider the Environmental Bill of Rights whenever decisions are being made which might significantly affect the environment, including decisions made during this planning process for the Woodland Caribou Signature Site Strategy.

The primary purpose of the Environmental Bill of Rights is "*to protect, conserve and, where reasonable, restore the integrity of the environment.*" This broad statement of purpose translates into four objectives in the ministry's Statement of Environmental Values:

- To ensure the long-term health of ecosystems by protecting and conserving our valuable soil, aquatic resources, forests and wildlife resources, as well as their biological foundations
- To ensure the continuing availability of natural resources for the long-term benefit of the people of Ontario, leaving future generations a legacy of the natural wealth that we enjoy today
- To protect natural heritage and biological features of provincial significance
- To protect human life, the resource base and physical property from the threats of forest fires, floods and erosion.

The Ministry's Statement of Environmental Values has been considered in the development of the Preliminary Strategy for the Woodland Caribou Signature Site.

1.0 Introduction

The Woodland Caribou Signature Site is located in northwestern Ontario, approximately 30 kilometres west of the town of Red Lake, 90 kilometres north of the city of Kenora and 60 kilometres south of the community of Pikangikum (Figure WCSS-1). It consists of 537,585 hectares which includes a provincial park, four recommended wilderness park additions, a conservation reserve, an enhanced management area and a forest reserve (section 5.0). By considering all areas of the signature site together, the interrelationships can be identified and appropriate levels of protection and promotion of the entire signature site area can be established.

The Woodland Caribou Signature Site was chosen because of its important natural and cultural heritage values and its significant tourism and recreation potential. As such, it has potential to make lasting contributions to Ontario's landscape, biodiversity and economy.

The unique boreal ecosystem of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site is influenced by the prairie climate and displays a diverse community of flora and fauna, some of which are provincially rare or at the northern limits of their range. This site is home to threatened forest dwelling woodland caribou. The area is currently known for its excellent facility-based sport fishery and backcountry wilderness canoeing and camping.

Cultural heritage values exist throughout the signature site. The site is considered a cultural landscape; a geographical area that has been modified, influenced or given special meaning by people (Parks Canada, 1994). The Manitoba First Nation community of Little Grand Rapids and the Ontario First Nation communities of Grassy Narrows, Pikangikum, Lac Seul and Wabaseemoong all have traditional use areas within the signature site. The signature site is located within Treaty 3 and Treaty 5.

The western edge of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site borders the Province of Manitoba and three of its protected areas. Northeast of the signature site lies the Whitefeather Forest where community-based land use planning is underway led by Pikangikum First Nation. East and south of the site are the following managed forests; the Whiskey Jack, Kenora and Red Lake Forests.

The identification of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site as one of the nine featured areas under *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* is based on work carried out during the Lands for Life planning process. The objectives of that process were to: complete Ontario's system of parks and protected areas within the *Ontario Living Legacy* planning area; recognize the land use needs of the resource based tourism industry; provide the forest, mining and other resource industries with greater land and resource certainty; and, enhance angling, hunting and other Crown land recreation opportunities.

2.0 *Purpose of this Document*

The Woodland Caribou Signature Site Strategy is an all-encompassing document that provides resource management direction. The document is divided into sections. The first section provides introductory information, vision and objectives, an overview of the attributes of the site and direction for natural resources in the site.

The second, third and fourth sections contain: a preliminary park management plan for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and recommended additions, a draft resource management plan for Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve and draft resource management guidelines for the Pipestone Bay-MacIntosh Enhanced Management Area. Each section can stand alone and be used independently of the others.

The Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA) is MNR's repository of current area-specific land use policies for Crown lands in the central part of Ontario. It identifies the basic land use intent and permitted uses for each of the designated areas in the Woodland Caribou Signature Site. This signature site strategy and the complementary supporting documents provide more details on the land use intent, and the resource management and recreation activities that may occur in the site. Amendments to the CLUPA will be completed to reflect the direction of this signature site strategy and/or the complementary supporting documents.

3.0 *Signature Site Vision and Objectives*

The strategy provides the collective vision and direction for all the land use designations in the signature site area. Through stakeholder consultation, the Advisory Committee assisted in the development of a vision statement which was created to guide the management planning process:

> *"To manage the Woodland Caribou Signature Site for its significant geological, biological, cultural, wilderness, and recreational values in a sustainable manner for the people of Ontario."*

The setting of site objectives is essential in the realization of the overall strategy. Protected and enhanced management areas will help ensure the ecological and economic health of the Woodland Caribou area and its communities, now and for future generations.

Signature site objectives are, to:

- ensure long-term protection of natural and cultural features in the site
- promote the site while preserving and protecting the character and quality of the environment
- encourage social and economic opportunity which reflect the unique qualities of the site
- develop strong partnerships in order to support a collective vision

4.0 Signature Site Values

The signature site protects the headwaters of the Bloodvein, Gammon, Bird, Haggart and Sturgeon Rivers. These waterways are the backbone of approximately 2000 kilometres of interconnected canoe routes. They are also the travel routes that were once part of the historic fur trade in the area known as the "petit nord".

The signature site, located in the Canadian Shield, consists of some of the oldest rocks on Earth. It is situated in the largest province of ancient Precambrian rock, the Superior Province, and contains the Berens River and Uchi subprovinces. Dividing the signature site is the Wannipigow-Wallace Lakes fault.

The cultural resources of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site represent the prehistoric hunter-gatherer societies of the boreal forest as well as their present descendents. Cultural evidence consists of both pre- and post-contact sites including pictographs, burial sites, and landscape modifications (e.g. fish traps, planting of wild rice).

The signature site is home to the threatened forest-dwelling woodland caribou, and provides critical summer, winter and calving habitat for this species. Other significant wildlife includes bald eagle, sharp-tailed grouse, wolverine and white pelicans. New northern range extensions for species such as green frog, snapping turtle and painted turtle have been documented.

Fourteen plants within the signature site are provincially significant and 124 are considered to be regionally rare. Significant plant communities include wild rice marshes, prairie communities, bur oak s avannah, a large stand of American elm, a large patterned fen and a mature red pine stand.

The signature site also contains a high concentration of lake trout lakes, and one of the most northerly extents of muskellunge range in Ontario is within the signature site. Some lakes contain trophy-sized northern pike, and walleye are abundant in many lakes within the signature site.

5.0 *Signature Site Components and Policy Context*

The components of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site are shown in Table WCSS-1.

Table WCSS-1: Components of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site

Site Component	Site #	Classification/Category	Area (hectares)
Woodland Caribou Provincial Park	P2370e	Wilderness	450,000
Recommended Park Additions	P2370	Wilderness	29,660
Eagle-Snowshoe (CR)	C2405	N/A	35,621
Pipestone Bay - McIntosh (EMA)	E2359a	Recreation	22,281
Woodland Caribou Forest Reserve	F2370	N/A	23
Total area			**537,585**

Note: Area figures are calculated using the best current information, but should be considered estimates for planning and comparative purposes only.

Also included within the boundaries of the signature site is the Bloodvein River which was designated as a Canadian Heritage River in 1998. Additional details about the Bloodvein River and its designation can be found in WCPP section 9.3.1 (preliminary park management plan).

5.1 *Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and Recommended Park Additions*

The existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park was regulated in 1983 as a wilderness class park. The recommended park additions were designated in 1999 in the land use strategy to become wilderness class park additions. Both have operated under an Interim Management Statement since 2000. Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Policies (1992 update) defines permitted uses within provincial parks for those activities not defined in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (1999).

The objectives of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park are:

- protect the wilderness values for which the park was created
- support or enhance ecological health
- protect and support a healthy population of forest-dwelling woodland caribou
- protect provincially significant natural features
- protect cultural heritage features
- provide a range of backcountry tourism and recreation opportunities where it is consistent with wilderness values and resource capacities
- permit existing facility-based tourism where it is compatible with protection objectives
- consider new ecotourism opportunities where it is consistent with protection objectives
- investigate economic opportunities with First Nations that have traditional use within the site

5.2 Eagle -Snowshoe Conservation Reserve

Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve was regulated under the Public Lands Act in May 2003. *Conservation Reserves Policy and Procedure* (1997) defines permitted uses within conservation reserves for those activities not defined in the land use strategy. Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve will operate under this general management direction and the Statement of Conservation Interest until such time as the resource management plan is approved.

Objectives for Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve are:

- protect representative earth and life science features while permitting many existing public and Aboriginal land uses to continue;
- protect forest-dwelling woodland caribou habitat;
- support existing and new recreation and tourism opportunities where they do not negatively impact the representative earth science and life science features.

5.3 Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area

Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area land use designation was created by the 1999 land use strategy. Activities within this area are guided by the land use policy developed in the strategy.

The objectives for Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area are:

- maintain existing recreational use and consider new tourism opportunities consistent with Woodland Caribou Provincial Park objectives
- protect the ecological health of park-related values (e.g. Bloodvein River headwaters, Eagle-Finlayson moraine) through resource management planning
- maintain existing land use commitments to the industrial resource sector

6.0 *Aboriginal Aspects of Woodland Caribou Signature Site*

First Nations people have used the signature site from time immemorial and continue to do so today. Habitation sites have been discovered, dating from 3000 years ago. During pre-contact times, Aboriginal people developed extensive trade routes to transport trade materials for hundreds or even thousands of kilometres. These routes and the intimate knowledge the Aboriginal people had of the landscape were the foundations upon which the historical fur trade was built.

Arrival of the Europeans in the 1600s and subsequent development of the area resulted in a change to the cultural landscape. Trading with Europeans and the interactions of the two cultures brought about changes in the Aboriginal nomadic lifestyle and led to the development of settled communities.

A number of Aboriginal communities with a long history in the Woodland Caribou Signature Site retain a close relationship with the land and continue to pursue their traditional activities in the area. These uses may continue, subject to public safety, conservation and private property considerations.

7.0 *Planning Process*

The direction presented in this strategy is based on public input, advisory committee recommendations and government review. The planning stages are as follows:

- Invitation to Participate - *December 2002*
- Public Review of Background Information - *February/March 2004*
- Public Review of Issues and Options – *Spring 2005*
- Public Review of Preliminary Strategy – *Spring 2006* ***(current stage)***
- Public Inspection of Approved Strategy – *Summer - Fall 2006*

8.0 Advisory Committee and First Nations Working Group

An Advisory Committee was established in January 2003. It is comprised of representatives with a wide range of interests and takes local, regional, and provincial perspectives into account.

The Advisory Committee, with respect to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the recommended park additions, developed a set of guiding principles that allowed discussion to continue on park issues by all parties on the committee. In accordance with the guiding principles, a series of recommendations were submitted to the Project Planning Team. The guiding principles and resulting recommendations were integral to the development of this document and are found in Appendix WCSS-1 of this section.

The First Nations of Grassy Narrows, Lac Seul, Little Grand Rapids, Pikangikum, and Wabaseemoong were formally invited to participate in the Woodland Caribou Signature Site planning process. They formed a First Nations Working Group to allow communities with traditional use in the signature site to meet in a separate forum to discuss specific issues, investigate economic opportunities and to begin the development of a long-lasting and meaningful relationship with local government offices which have responsibilities within the site.

9.0 *Related Landscape Initiatives*

9.1 *Manitoba/Ontario Interprovincial Wilderness Area*

Manitoba and Ontario share a common border and have contiguous protected areas that encompass more than one million hectares. Protected areas include Atikaki Provincial Wilderness Park (MB) and Nopiming Provincial Park (MB), Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (ON), South Atikaki Provincial Park (MB), four recommended park additions to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (ON), and Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve (ON). Boundaries of these areas area are shown in Figure WCSS-1. The two provinces have identified the following areas of cooperation:

- *Resource Management* – coordinate resource management activities such as fire/vegetation management, enforcement, and wildlife management.
- *Marketing* – promote the interprovincial wilderness area through joint marketing endeavours.
- *Management of Recreational Opportunities* – manage and coordinate high-quality recreational opportunities that showcase the ecological value of the area.

9.2 *Whitefeather Forest Planning Initiative: Northern Boreal Initiative*

The Ministry of Natural Resources has established the Northern Boreal Initiative (NBI) and is currently engaged with several First Nations who are investigating economic opportunities in locations north of the area where commercial forestry currently takes place.

Pikangikum First Nation is exploring resource-based economic opportunities, such as forestry, tourism and ecotourism through a community driven land use planning exercise. This process is designed to provide timely direction to proceed with economic opportunities for the community, to guide their future and determine a balance between protection, conservation, traditional uses, and development.

The Whitefeather Forest Planning Area is northeast of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site. New protected areas, or additions to existing protected areas, will result from this land use planning exercise. Interim management direction for new protected areas takes direction from the *Whitefeather Forest and Adjacent Areas Land Use Strategy* (2006). It is anticipated that as economic opportunities are realized within this planning area, the cultural and ecological linkages that exist between the Whitefeather Forest and the Woodland Caribou Signature Site will continue to develop.

9.3 *Adjacent Areas Planning Initiative*

An area of 109,200 hectares lies south of the Whitefeather Forest, north of the Red Lake Forest, east of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, and west of the Trout Forest (Figure WCSS-1). It contains three areas (Valhalla Lake, Blondin Lake and Crossland Lake) which may have value as protected areas. Planning for these "adjacent" areas will be led by the Red Lake District (MNR) in conjunction with the Whitefeather Forest Planning Initiative. Decisions about designating any lands in these areas as protected, either new or as additions to existing protected areas, will be made through the Adjacent Planning Areas Initiative.

9.4 UNESCO World Heritage Site: Boreal Forest in the Northern Hemisphere

A partnership has been formed among the Province of Manitoba; the Province of Ontario; the Manitoba First Nations of Bloodvein River, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, and Poplar River; and the Ontario First Nation of Pikangikum. Collective data was submitted to the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) regarding Atikaki Provincial Park in Manitoba, Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario and future protected areas within the traditional lands of the aforementioned First Nations, which fills an important gap in the representation of the Canadian boreal shield ecozone.

In November 2003, the IUCN identified the site as remarkable and subsequently recommended it for World Heritage Site status (IUCN 2004). The IUCN also identified this site as internationally significant because of the planned integration of traditional and western ecological knowledge for land management and protection. The agreement between the resident First Nations, in whose traditional territory this site is located, is precedent setting. In April 2004, the Federal Government elected to nominate this site as one of eleven on Canada's Tentative List for World Heritage Sites for consideration by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

10.0 Summary of Planning Challenges

The complexity of the signature site is demonstrated by the wide range of discussion topics and issues brought forward by the advisory committee, First Nations, public and planning team.

10.1 Motorized Travel

A variety of types of motorized travel occurs for a wide range of purposes. Motorized travel associated with some tourism and recreation activities affects natural, cultural and wilderness values, and is causing user conflicts.

10.2 Boundaries

Some feel the boundaries do not capture all the significant values in the area.

The boundaries of two of the recommended provincial park additions cannot be regulated until replacement wood supply is secured from other locations for those recommended provincial park additions.

10.3 Crown Land Use

There are early signs of overuse by signature site users. In some places, soil compaction, improper disposal of human waste and grey water, litter, destruction of vegetation and damage to sensitive habitats and shorelines are apparent.

10.4 Cultural Heritage

More information is needed about the location and importance of sites so that they can be properly protected and interpreted.

10.5 Economic Health

The current commercial activities are important to the local and regional economy. The signature site should provide some new opportunities.

10.6 Fisheries

If the sport fishing is to be sustainable, it must not be negatively affected by remote tourism activities.

10.7 Industrial Use

Industrial access in the enhanced management area and the other parts of the managed forest can cause undesirable impacts on protected area and tourism values, and the headwaters of the Bloodvein River.

10.8 Land

Land occupations in the signature site should not negatively affect any significant natural, cultural or landform features.

10.9 Vegetation

Fire suppression in the last few decades is impacting the natural plant abundance and distribution, including caribou habitat.

10.10 Water

Even though water quality in the signature site is excellent, it is important to support and protect this fundamental resource. Activities in the signature site may negatively affect water quality and ecosystems dependent on it.

10.11 Wildlife

Although hunting is permitted in the recommended park additions, using motorized vehicles to access hunting areas and retrieve game is inconsistent with wilderness class park policy.

10.12 Woodland Caribou

This Species at Risk requires large expanses of old, even-aged conifer forest with lichen ground cover in winter and isolated islands or peninsulas for spring calving. Winter recreation trails and spring camping may negatively impact caribou.

11.0 Signature Site Direction

The following direction is based on public input, advisory committee recommendations and government review.

11.1 Motorized Travel

A wide variety of motorized travel occurs in the signature site.

Due to the remote nature of the site, aircraft are used for access to private property and tourism, and for recreation.

Clients of facility-based tourist operations travel within the site mainly by motorboats based at the facility or based away from the facility at a boat cache. Other tourist operators located outside the site have boat caches within the site where they leave clients for day-trips.

Recreational snowmobiling occurs in the signature site, however no authorized trails exist. Snowmobiling is a non-conforming use in the park and currently occurs in Bulging/Haggart, Douglas/Hatchet, Knox/Murdock and Talon/Dragon areas.

Industrial road access for forestry and mining purposes exists in the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA and other parts of the managed forest. Motorized travel related to forestry and mining is addressed in the "Industrial Use" section.

Direction

Enhance wilderness values over the long term by creating larger areas of less motorized use in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Access will be primarily at the periphery of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, with a few exceptions.

Private aircraft use will be limited to access zones in the park. However, patent land owners and immediate family can access their patent property using their own aircraft, commercial aircraft or their own boats.

Commercial aircraft use will be permitted in specific areas of the park.

Aircraft are not restricted in the conservation reserve or enhanced management area.

Enhance wilderness values by regulating horsepower related to recreational watercraft in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

Phase out snowmobile use in the existing park to protect the long-term health of woodland caribou populations and to maintain a large undisturbed core wilderness area.

Permit snowmobile use in a limited number of seasonal access zones in the park additions, and on existing trails in the conservation reserve, to support hunting and ice fishing. Proposals for new snowmobile trails in the northern part of the enhanced management area will be considered.

Prohibit ATVs except on tenured properties in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and on existing trails in the conservation reserve.

Resource harvesters may be permitted to use aircraft, snowmobiles, motorboats or ATVs according to the terms of their authorized resource use.

In the northern part of the EMA, the public can use existing and new roads for general recreation activities.

In the southern part of the EMA, the public can use existing roads for general recreation activities. Public use of new roads is not permitted.

Access to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park or park additions via the EMA is permitted at designated access zones only.

11.2 Boundaries

The existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park was regulated in 1983. *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* recommended four wilderness park additions, the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve (which was regulated under the Public Lands Act in 2003), and the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area.

Across Ontario, where protected areas recommended under *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* overlapped with pre-existing mining lands (claims and leases), the areas were designated as Forest Reserves. The intent was that when the mining tenure lapsed, the area would be regulated as protected areas. A land use amendment was approved for the Woodland Caribou Signature Site to adjust the boundaries of the park additions, the enhanced management area and the forest reserve from those originally identified in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy.*

Direction

Regulate Douglas/Foley Lake and Sydney/Rowdy Lake recommended park additions immediately after the approval of the strategy.

Regulate Peisk/Lund Lake and Anchor Lake recommended park additions when replacement wood supply is secured from other locations.

11.3 Crown Land Use

Crown land use includes the array of outdoor activities undertaken on Crown land such as camping, canoeing, picnicking (e.g. shorelunch), hunting, angling and snowmobiling. Crown land use also includes construction of facilities on Crown land for certain purposes. Land in the signature site is occupied for uses such as commercial tourism establishments, cottages and private resorts, resource harvesting developments (e.g. trap cabins), boat caches and mining/forestry activities. Of these developments, there are 13 on patent land. Crown land uses can have a negative impact on the environment if not managed properly. The overall land use direction for the Woodland Caribou Signature Site is to allow for the continuation of Crown land use activities, in accordance with policy, without negatively impacting the ecological, cultural or wilderness values of the site. Dispositions related to tourism and recreation are addressed in "Tourism and Recreation".

Direction

In Woodland Caribou Provincial Park acquire patent land based on willing seller – willing buyer basis, as resources permit.

Ban the use of glass bottles in the park, except on tenured land, to contribute to ecological health.

11.4 Cultural Heritage

An objective for the signature site is the long-term protection of cultural values. The cultural heritage of the signature site is partially displayed through pictographs and artifacts. It is also demonstrated through landscape modifications such as fish traps, channeling and planting of wild rice. The First Nations communities that have traditional use areas within the site retain a close relationship with the land. The overall land use intent with regard to cultural heritage is to advocate further research and documentation of cultural sites, protect known sites and promote public education.

Direction

Represent and protect significant cultural heritage resources in the signature site to help ensure the long term preservation of such features for future generations.

Protect significant cultural features in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park by restricting, prohibiting or relocating activities like boat caching, camping, hiking trails, portages, canoeing and kayaking in certain areas.

Identify post-European contact sites, such as remnant fur trading posts.

Work in partnership with First Nations to identify significant cultural and archaeological sites.

Research and interpretation of the Aboriginal cultural heritage within the Pikangikum traditional land use area of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be undertaken co-operatively.

11.5 Ecological Health

The signature site is a substantial area of approximately 537,585 hectares. Although there is some road access to the periphery and air access is currently unrestricted, the site is relatively remote. The signature site contains many significant natural values. Some values are negatively affected by commercial and recreational activities that occur in the site.

On a broader scale, there is a greater understanding and appreciation of the role protected areas play in conserving biodiversity, mitigating climate change, and acting as ecological benchmarks in the landscape. Forested lands can help to moderate the effects of climate change by removing and storing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Global warming can negatively affect forests by an increase in the frequency of fires, insect infestation and diseases due to changes in temperature and precipitation. Climate change could also affect the distribution and abundance of habitat and populations of flora and fauna, resulting in a change in species composition.

Direction

Increase ecological health by prohibiting certain activities in sensitive areas.

Maintain ecological health and meet protection objectives by rehabilitating fish habitat and by applying conditions to sport fishing.

Protect significant natural and cultural features and wilderness values in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park by restricting, prohibiting or relocating activities like boat caching, camping, hiking trails, portages, canoeing and kayaking in certain areas.

Collect data on populations and habitat of flora and fauna as opportunities exist, to consider the effects of climate change during scheduled reviews of management plans for the provincial park and conservation reserve.

11.6 Economic Health

The predominant economic activities in the area are tourism, forestry and mining. Other land uses include trapping, wild rice harvesting and commercial bait fishing.

Direction

New opportunities in tourism may be considered if the proposal is compatible with policies for the land use areas within the signature site.

Bear Management Areas are permitted in the enhanced management area, the conservation reserve and the recommended park additions.

Forestry and mining are permitted in the Pipestone – MacIntosh Enhanced Management Area. Mining is also permitted in the Woodland Caribou Forest Reserve.

11.7 Energy

There are no energy generation facilities or any energy-related infrastructure within the signature site at this time.

Direction

Commercial power generation, including hydroelectric, is not permitted in the park, recommended park additions or conservation reserve.

Small-scale, non-commercial, renewable energy developments to generate power for existing tourism facilities may be considered if they are more economical and environmentally friendly than the current method of electricity generation and if they are compatible with signature site values. For example, it may be desirable to generate power for tourism facilities using wind or water, rather than diesel fuel, if remoteness can be maintained, and if natural, cultural heritage and recreation values can be protected.

11.8 Fisheries

The majority of anglers in the signature site are associated with the facility-based tourism industry or commercial day trips, however angling by local residents and First Nations community members does occur. Commercial bait harvesting also occurs.

Direction

Rehabilitate habitat.

Support research and inventories of the fisheries resource.

Pursue a "conservation limits only" regulation for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park to maintain a high quality fishery that supports tourism.

Renew dialogue with the Province of Manitoba regarding the Ontario/Manitoba Boundary Waters Agreement.

11.9 Industrial Use

The Red Lake area is one of the richest gold producing areas in North America and has been extensively explored and developed since the 1920s. Over the past 70 years, 12 mines have come into production. Currently there are two significant gold producing mines in the Red Lake area.

The signature site is bordered by the Red Lake, Whiskey Jack and Kenora Forests. Timber harvesting and forest management are the most visible adjacent land uses and may have the greatest potential impact on the signature site.

Direction

Forestry and mining are permitted in the Pipestone – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area. Mining is also permitted in the Woodland Caribou Forest Reserve.

Industrial activities will be planned to protect natural, cultural and recreational values. For example, timing restrictions and/or timber reserves may be appropriate depending on the value and the activity.

Industrial access in the enhanced management area will be planned to avoid undesirable impacts on park and tourism values, and the headwaters of the Bloodvein River.

The Guidelines for Exploration Best Practices in Enhanced Management Areas in Ontario (2002) will be applied.

Avoid undesirable impacts on park and tourism values through careful planning of new road locations and restricting access on existing roads where conflicts exist or where values are at risk.

In the EMA, roads will be constructed to lowest standard possible. New roads/trails should consider aesthetics. Design and construction should facilitate access controls and closure/rehabilitation where unwanted entry to the park is likely.

A primary forest access road crossing between Sydney and Rowdy lakes in the most southerly recommended park addition is permitted.

Industrial access roads are permitted in the conservation reserve to access existing mining tenure for future mineral exploration and/or mining development

11.10 Land

Natural features in the signature site include shorelines of glacial Lake Agassiz, subaqueous fan deposits, the provincially significant Eagle-Finlayson Moraine and associated features, a portion of the Red Lake greenstone belt, the Wannipigow-Wallace Lake fault and shear zones.

Direction

Protect significant geological structures and landforms in Nature Reserve zones of the park and through other management policies.

11.11 Representation

Representation of the diversity of natural features, species and ecosystems is one of the principles of the protected areas system. Protected areas contribute to the conservation of genetic and biological diversity. The Woodland Caribou Signature Site is within the Ontario Shield Ecozone. The site spans two Ecoregions (3S Cat Lake and 4S Lake Wabigoon) and three Ecodistricts (3S-1 Berens River Bedrock Plateau, 4S-1 Sydney Lake, and 4S-2 Sunstrum). The signature site represents 37 per cent of Eco-district 4S-1, providing representation to all land cover classes found therein.

Direction

Maintain the current diversity of landform-vegetation classes found within the provincial park and conservation reserve.

Protect rare communities in Nature Reserve zones, or prohibit development in those locations.

Regulate the park additions to enhance biodiversity in the park.

11.12 Vegetation

The signature site contains rich sedge meadows, rare plants, hardwood swamps, bur oak savannahs, prairie-boreal species communities, provincially significant species (e.g. floating marsh marigold, Vasey's pondweed, prairie crocus, prairie spikemoss), patterned fens, rich fen meadows, southern flora such as ten flowered showy goldenrod and purple chokeberry, and various delicate wetland flora.

Direction

Maintain the diversity and distribution of vegetation within the provincial park and conservation reserve.

Commercial timber harvesting is not permitted in the provincial park or conservation reserve.

Provincially rare plant species and unique vegetation communities will be protected in Nature Reserve zones in the park.

A fire management plan will be prepared that balances the ecological role of fire with safety considerations. Fires within the signature site will be jointly managed, such that district staff and park staff are consulted regarding management actions for fires that are likely to cross boundaries between the park, the recommended park additions, the conservation reserve or the enhanced management area.

Fuelwood harvesting will not be permitted in the provincial park or conservation reserve unless existing facilities lack reasonable means of acquiring fuelwood.

11.13 Tourism and Recreation

In the Woodland Caribou Signature Site there are six main base lodges located on Sabourin, Douglas, Carroll, Sydney, Gammon and Rowdy Lakes. Lodges are located on patent land or Crown leases. There are also 24 commercial outpost camps in the signature site located mainly on the Bird, Bloodvein and Gammon River systems. Outpost camps are authorized by Land Use Permits or Crown Leases.

Private tourism and recreation interests in the signature site include private resorts on Donald and Anderson Lakes, and 15 private cottages (on patent land). There are also seven private recreation camps on Land Use Permits throughout the site.

Two of the four objectives set out in *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* are: to recognize the land use needs of the tourism industry; and, to enhance angling, hunting and other Crown land recreation opportunities. Further, the land use strategy recognizes the signature site as having extremely significant tourism and recreation potential that merits increased planning, management and promotion.

There are a number of features and values, especially natural heritage values and remoteness that were considered in determining the land use intent for the signature site with respect to tourism and recreation.

Direction

New dispositions for the private use of individuals will not be permitted in the existing park or recommended park additions. Existing dispositions for private purposes will be phased out by December 31, 2009.

In the conservation reserve and enhanced management area, dispositions for private recreation will not be considered for facilities that provide overnight accommodation.

Backcountry recreation and tourism opportunities will be supported by providing staging areas for access

ranging from maintained tertiary roads to floatplane access to low-intensity access zones. Low-intensity access zones will not have any facilities and will be restricted to non-motorized watercraft. In general, visitors will reach one of these access zones by paddling from a parking area some distance away.

Existing tourism operations may continue however some restrictions may be imposed on certain activities to ensure ecological health. New opportunities in adventure and ecotourism may be possible.

In the conservation reserve, Crown land camping by non-residents is permitted provided they obtain a Crown land camping permit. Seasonal LUPs may be issued to commercial tourism operations to support hunting opportunities where no facilities already exist.

11.14 Water

The Woodland Caribou Signature Site lies entirely within the Nelson River Drainage Basin where all water flows into Hudson Bay via Lake Winnipeg and the Nelson River. Many headwaters are contained within the signature site boundaries. Water quality is excellent and suitable for all recreational uses in the signature site.

Direction

Protect headwater areas of the Bloodvein River by regulating the Peisk/Lund Lake recommended park addition.

Identify and protect representative aquatic features subject to a provincial framework being established. .

Establish baseline information for water quality and quantity, where feasible.

11.15 Wilderness Values

The Woodland Caribou Signature Site contains areas of appropriate size and integrity that support backcountry tourism and recreation opportunities while preserving and protecting the character and quality of the environment. A "wilderness continuum" is a concept symbolized by a horizontal line representing wilderness. At one end of the line, the park does not meet the definition of a wilderness class park (less wilderness). At the other end of the line, the park meets the definition completely (more wilderness). Decisions made during the planning process will be measured against current conditions in the park and how these changes affect the realization of the wilderness class definition and the parks system as a whole. At the end of this planning process and subsequent ones, management actions will move the park along the wilderness continuum towards more wilderness in varying degrees.

Direction

Backcountry activities (e.g. hiking trails, portages, canoeing, kayaking) will occur in a manner that ensures that wilderness values are protected.

Move the park along a "wilderness continuum" towards a state of more wilderness. In the provincial park wilderness values will be protected by reducing the human footprint of certain activities. Examples include designating campsites, relocating boat caches and limiting motorized travel. Entry quotas will be implemented when required.

11.16 Wildlife

Typical boreal wildlife species found in the signature site include large mammals such as woodland caribou, moose and black bears. Furbearers such as beaver, otter, mink, muskrat, fisher, marten, weasel, lynx, fox, wolverine and timber wolf are also present. Interesting bird species include bald eagles, sharp-tailed grouse and white pelicans. The northern range extensions for green frog, snapping turtle and painted turtle also occur here.

There are 36 full or partial traplines throughout the signature site. Hunting has not been permitted in the existing park since 1989 but is a popular activity in the remainder of the signature site.

Direction

Hunting by non natives is not permitted in the existing provincial park. Hunting is permitted in the conservation reserve, the EMA and recommended park additions (except in the nature reserve zones), subject to regulations under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act..

Commercial trapping is permitted in the conservation reserve and the enhanced management area. In the existing park, trapping by non-native people will be phased out by December 31, 2009. In the recommended park additions, trapping by non natives can continue indefinitely.

11.17 Woodland Caribou

The signature site contains important summer and winter habitat for this species which is listed as nationally "threatened"[1] by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) and has been designated as threatened by MNR.

Direction

Protect caribou by reducing opportunities for predation and by reducing impacts of human disturbance on critical habitat. Examples include prohibiting snowmobile trails in winter habitat areas and prohibiting camping in calving areas in spring and early summer.

1. "Threatened species means a wildlife species that is likely to become an endangered species if nothing is done to reverse the factors leading to its extirpation or extinction. (Species at Risk Act, 2002)

12.0 Next Steps

The Woodland Caribou Signature Site Preliminary Strategy will be made available for public review in conjunction with the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Preliminary Management Plan, the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve Preliminary Resource Management Plan and the Pipestone-McIntosh Enhanced Management Area preliminary resource management guidelines. A series of open houses in local communities will occur to present the documents. Input will be considered to develop the final Woodland Caribou Signature Site Strategy and the associated resource management plans.

This strategy will be implemented through the policies in the resource management plans for the park and conservation reserve, and through the policies in the management direction for the enhanced management area. Proposed changes in land use direction and permitted uses as a result of this planning process are shown on revised Crown Land Use Policy Atlas reports in the complementary supporting documents.

The need for a comprehensive review of the approved Woodland Caribou Signature Site Strategy will be assessed every 10 years. However, new or changed circumstances may require the strategy to be amended. Amendments will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may require public consultation if they have significant environmental, social or economic impact.

13.0 References

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Appendix A – Advisory Committee Contributions

Guiding Principles and Recommendations

The Woodland Caribou Signature Site Advisory Committee held its inaugural meeting on January 23, 2003. In the beginning of the planning process, the Advisory Committee developed a set of guiding principles in order to create an atmosphere of respect and understanding in which discussions could proceed. In accordance with these principles, recommendations were submitted to the Project Planning Team for the Woodland Caribou Signature Site Preliminary Strategy.

The following is a direct communication from the Advisory Committee (August 23, 2005):

"The Advisory Committee thanks Ontario Parks for the opportunity to represent the diverse interests of the region in preparing a management plan for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and Signature Site.

It has been difficult to fit together the requirements of existing Parks policy, the needs of local communities and the various directives. However, the Advisory Committee reached 100% consensus on the following guiding principles:

This Advisory Committee will make recommendations in accordance with the following principles;

1. *All existing commercial roofed accommodation with air access will remain;*
2. *Portage access boat caches associated with facility will remain;*
3. *Existing motorboat use associated with points 1 and 2 will remain with possible restrictions;*
4. *No seasonal net loss of easily accessed high quality canoe routes;*
5. *Protection of earth and life science features;*
6. *Minimum of 5 day canoe route (max.25 km/day) with solitude, i.e. no motorboats for at least 3 of the 5 days, with possibility of encountering motorboats or facilities in entry/exit points only;*
7. *All existing users have some assurance that their presence and future viability will continue (local economic benefits);*
8. *Plan the park to ensure that there are a variety of wilderness experiences.*

As an Advisory Committee, based on the foregoing, we have come to unanimous consensus on the following recommendations:

1. *All existing commercial roofed accommodations will be allowed to continue in their present form.*
2. *Move as quickly as possible, through negotiations with individual operators, to remove all boat caches from the large wilderness areas outside of the Bloodvein and Gammon River System, with the exception of Irregular Lake.*
3. *Move towards the phase out of snowmobiling in the park in ten years on those trails which do not conflict with current caribou habitat. We note that recognized snowmobile use in the park additions will continue.*
4. *Whereas Park Policy, in conjunction with the Minister's Order (PM 1.00), limits motorized boat activity to that associated with current tourism operations within the park; therefore the Advisory Committee urges that motorized boat traffic not meeting that requirement be phased out."*

Other Discussion Topics

In addition to the principles and recommendations, the Advisory Committee reached consensus on a number of other topics between January 23, 2003 and August 23, 2005. The Planning Team considered these in the development of the preliminary signature sites strategy, resource management plan and resource management guideline.

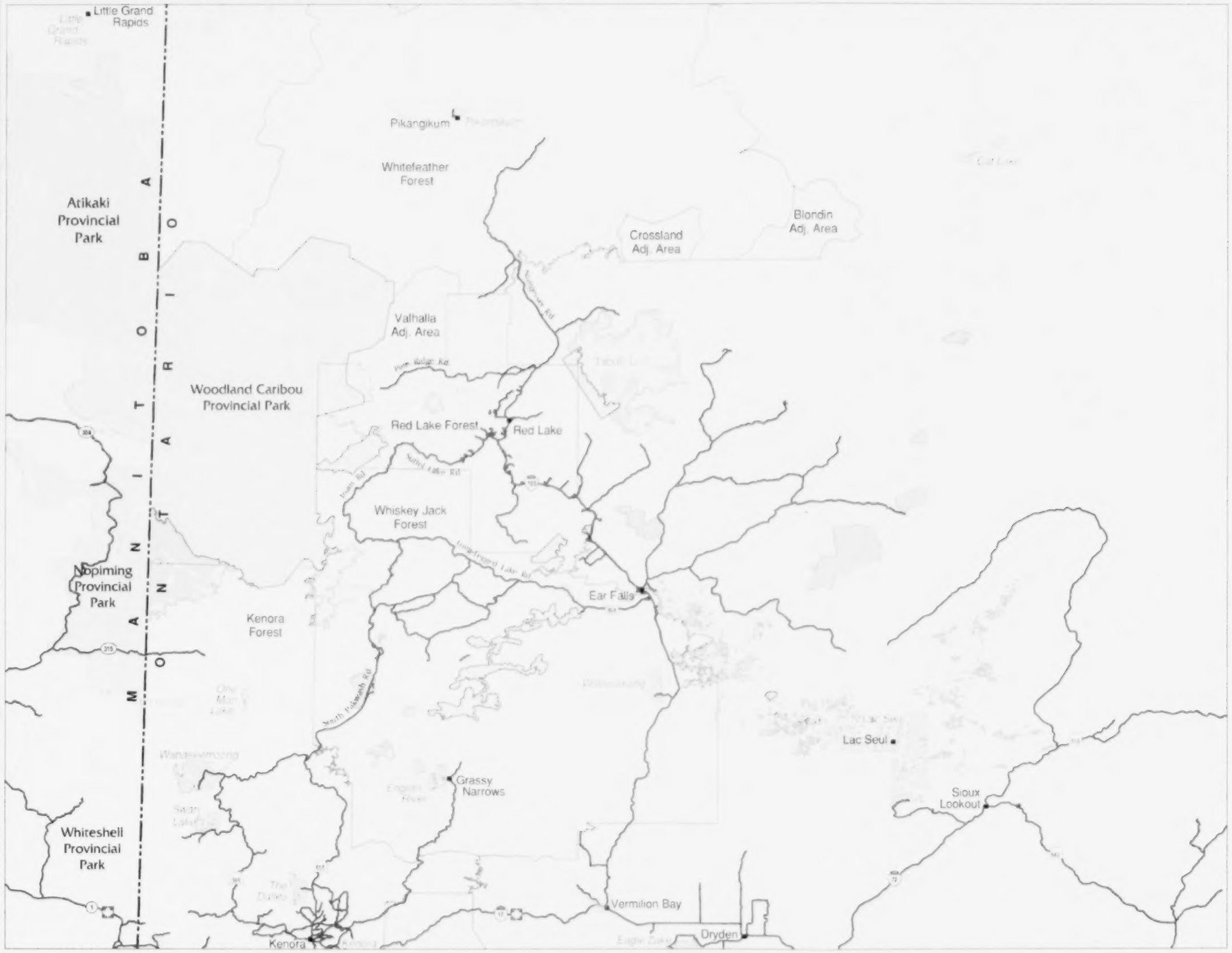
- No new transmission towers or utility corridors, and existing towers to be phased out over ten years in the core park.
- No new transmission towers or utility corridors, and phase out existing towers over a period of ten years in the conservation reserve.
- Remove MNR fuel cache from the park.
- No MNR fuel caches allowed in the park additions.
- No MNR fuel caches in the conservation reserve.
- No MNR fuel caches allowed in the enhanced management area.
- Can and glass bottle ban, except for tenured locations (LUP, Crown lease, patent lands), in the core park.
- Can and glass bottle ban, except for tenured locations (LUP, Crown lease, patent lands), in the park additions.
- Can and glass bottle ban, except for tenured locations (LUP, Crown lease, patent lands), in the conservation reserve.
- Recommended to identify three wilderness zones, and two access zones in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park as a planning tool.
- No new opportunities for commercial fishing except those provided for in the Islington Band Agreement.
- New facilities/opportunities should be non-consumptive.
- Existing and new outpost camps permitted (with qualifiers for non-consumptive for new opportunities).
- Existing resorts and lodges permitted but not new ones.
- Recommend to MNR to maintain the road from Red Lake to Leano Lake and that a road access be provided at Lund Lake via the McIntosh road for access to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. That MNR should be prepared to enter into a road maintenance agreement on the above roads.
- Propose Donald, Hansen and Sabourin Lakes for air access zones.
- Reduce the number of boat caches by 10% over five years and another 10% in the next five years .
- Explore opportunities with operators to relocate on same lake or remove boat caches in Wilderness Zone 2
- Where critical winter caribou habitat is not in danger and there is use of existing trails, the Advisory Committee recommends a phase-out period of ten years for snowmobiling in the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.
- 'Conservation license only' be phased in over five years in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.
- The Woodland Caribou Signature Site Advisory Committee sees the proposed road crossing between Sydney and Rowdy Lakes as having the potential to impact negatively on park values and therefore, the Woodland Caribou Signature Site Advisory Committee opposes the Sydney/Rowdy Crossing as proposed in the 2004 Whiskey Jack Forest Management Plan.

- Portage-to boat caches are boats which are associated with the facility-based operations (for fisheries management purposes) and are accessed by a walking trail or water from the lake that the facility is located on.
- Facilities and motorized transport are items which do not conform with the objectives of wilderness parks and wilderness zones, however, the Minister has mandated that existing commercial tourism facilities will remain, furthermore there are few opportunities to relocated facilities outside of the park.

The Advisory Committee discussed many other topics on which consensus was not reached. The Planning Team also considered this discussion in the development of the preliminary signature sites strategy, resource management plan and resource management guideline

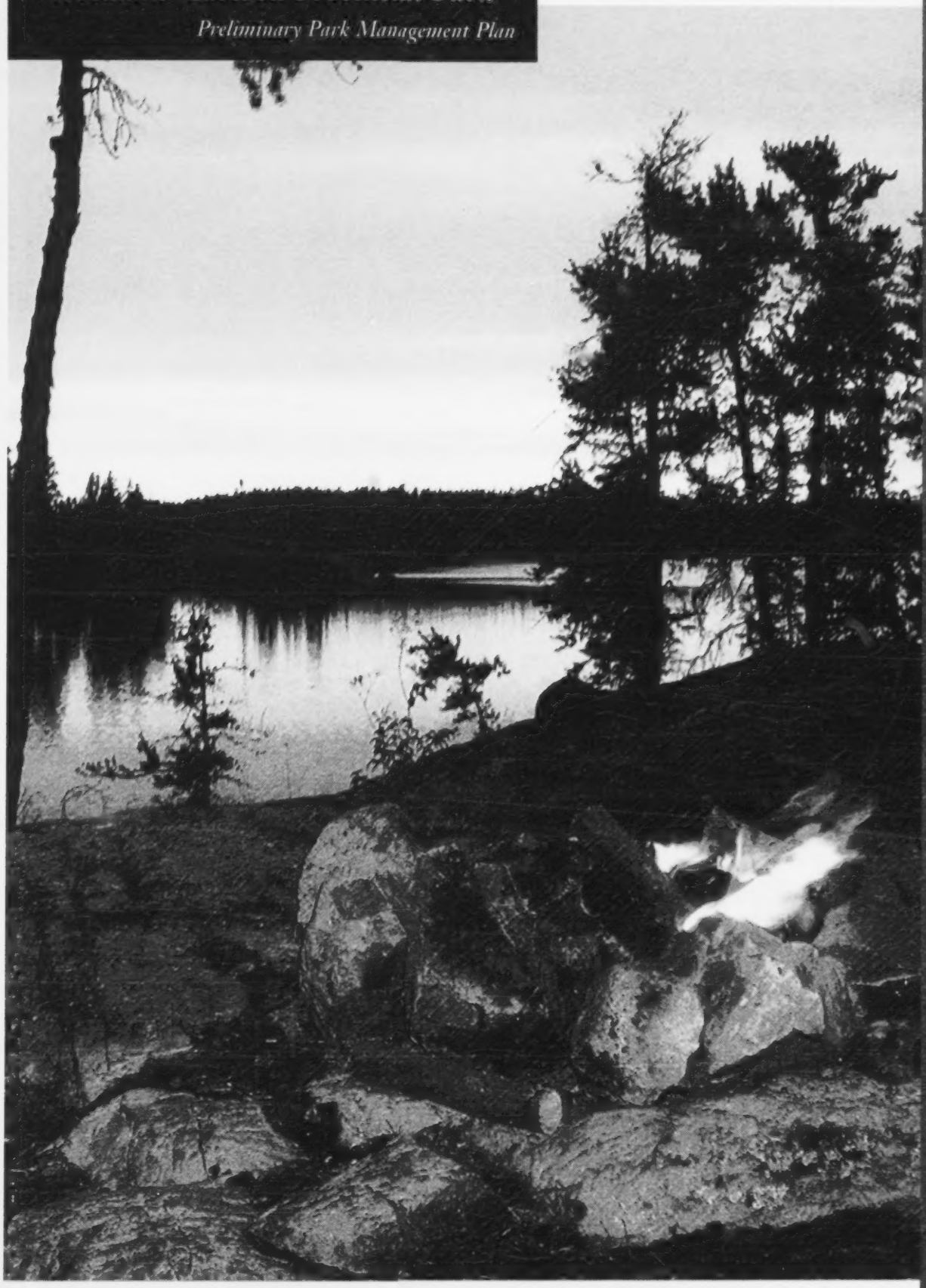
Figure 1: Provincial/Regional Context

PROVINCIAL / REGIONAL CONTEXT



Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

Preliminary Park Management Plan



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Dear Sir/Madam:

I am pleased to approve the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Preliminary Management Plan as the official policy for the management and development of this park. The plan reflects the Ministry of Natural of Resources' and Ontario Parks' intent to protect the natural and cultural features of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and maintain and develop high quality opportunities for outdoor recreation and heritage appreciation for the residents of Ontario and visitors to the Province.

The plan outlines an implementation strategy for the plan's elements and summarizes the public consultation that occurred as part of the planning process.

The public is given a final opportunity to review the approved Preliminary Management Plan for a period of forty-five (45) days after its formal release. This allows participants interested in the planning process a final opportunity to determine if their concerns have been considered.

The plan for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be used to guide the management of the park over the next twenty (20) years. It will be reviewed throughout its duration and may be amended in response to changing issues or conditions.

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all those who participated in the planning process.

Yours truly,

A. Ireland-Smith

Adair Ireland-Smith
Managing Director
Ontario Parks.

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Statement of Environmental Values and the Environmental Bill of Rights

In 1994, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) finalized its *Statement of Environmental Values* (SEV) under the *Environmental Bill of Rights* (EBR). The SEV is a document that describes how the purposes of the EBR are to be considered whenever decisions are made in the Ministry that might significantly affect the environment. This includes decisions made as a result of the park management planning process.

The primary purpose of the EBR is "to protect, conserve and, where reasonable, restore the integrity of the environment." From the Ministry's perspective, that broad statement of purpose translates into four objectives in its SEV:

- To ensure the long-term health of ecosystems by protecting and conserving our valuable soil, aquatic resources, forest, and wildlife resources as well as their biological foundations.
- To ensure the continuing availability of natural resources for the long-term benefit of the people of Ontario.
- To protect natural heritage and biological features of provincial significance.
- To protect human life, the resource base, and physical property from the threats of forest fires, floods, and erosion.

The Ministry's SEV has been considered throughout the planning process. The management plan for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will further the objectives of managing Ontario's resource on an environmentally sustainable base.

1.0 Context

This Preliminary Park Management Plan provides policy direction for the management of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. It is based on the Terms of Reference, Background Information, and Issues and Options documents as well as input received through consultation.

For ease of review, this Preliminary Park Management Plan is worded in the style of an Approved Management Plan. However, this document is a proposed plan and all aspects of it are subject to comment and review.

Based on input received following the release and consultation for the Preliminary Park Management Plan, Ontario Parks will prepare, approve, and distribute the Approved Management Plan for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Preliminary Management Plan has been developed in accordance with the *Ontario Provincial Parks Planning and Management Policies* (1992 update) as amended by *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (1999).

The management direction contained in this document will be reflected through amendment of the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas which is the Ministry of Natural Resources repository of current area-specific land use policies for Crown lands in the central part of Ontario. It identifies the basic land use intent and permitted uses for each of the designated areas. The intended direction to be reflected in the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas is included in Appendixes WCPP-2 and WCPP-3.

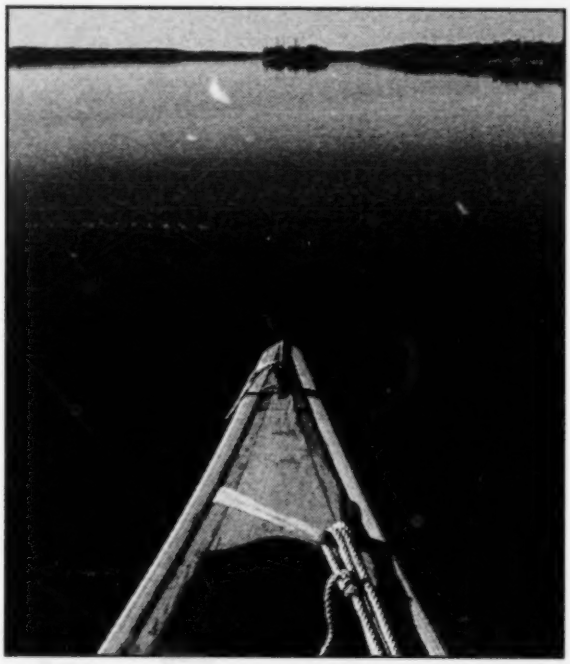


Photo: Hide Otake

2.0 *Introduction*

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park covers 450,000 hectares (1.2 million acres) making it the largest component of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site. The four recommended park additions add another 29,660 hectares of protected area. Combined, they represent 89% of the signature site (Figure WCPP-1).

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park resources have been under study and subsequent consideration for higher level protection since the 1940s. On June 7, 1983 Woodland Caribou Provincial Park was regulated as a wilderness class park under the Provincial Parks Act by Ontario Regulation 343/83. In 2000, an interim management statement was prepared to guide direction of the park until a park management plan is approved.

Characteristics of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park include critical woodland caribou habitat, significant earth and life science features, important cultural sites, excellent remote tourism opportunities, and many scenic canoe routes, including the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park provides a wide range of tourism, recreation and economic benefits for the surrounding communities. A large number of businesses in the Red Lake area are associated with the tourism industry which relies on other wholesale and retail commerce, transportation, construction and repair industries for its continued existence. Indirect benefits of the management plan (e.g. protection of resource integrity and cultural values, area recognition, etc) are expected to assist in making the region and local communities more attractive to businesses as well as tourists and residents.

Commercial tourism activity in the park is supported by commercial air services, main-base lodges, outpost camps, and backcountry outfitters. Facility-based establishments provide a wide range of use and visitation opportunities, the most popular being angling. Backcountry tourism outfitters provide a full range of canoeing and camping services. The diversity of lakes and river systems in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park provides some of the highest quality recreational fishing and canoeing in Ontario. The primary appeal for all visitors is the wilderness setting and remote quality of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is found in the Boreal Shield Ecozone. The park is primarily within Ecoregion 4S (Ecodistricts 4S-1 and 4S-2) and extends into Ecoregion 3S (Ecodistrict 3S-1). The Municipality of Red Lake is the closest community to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park located approximately 30 kilometres east of the park (Figure WCSS-1). Other communities in the immediate planning area include Ear Falls, Kenora, Pikangikum, Whitedog, Grassy Narrows, Lac Seul and Little Grand Rapids in Manitoba.

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is described as a cultural landscape. Archaeological evidence has recorded use by Aboriginal people broadly over northwestern Ontario and specifically in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park over thousands of years. First Nations documentation confirms this research by their own records of Indigenous Knowledge, collaborative research with Ontario Parks and through their continued use of this landscape today. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is located within Treaty 3 and Treaty 5. Consultation with local First Nations is a commitment made by Ontario Parks and integral to the planning process. Nothing in this park management plan shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from the protection provided for the existing aboriginal or treaty rights of the aboriginal people of Canada as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

3.0 Classification

Through park classification, Ontario's provincial parks are organized into broad categories, each of which has particular purposes and characteristics. All provincial parks in Ontario fall into one of six classes: wilderness, nature reserve, historical, natural environment, waterway or recreation. Each class contributes differently towards the provincial parks system while collectively ensuring that the province's natural, cultural and recreational environments are protected. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is a wilderness class park. Wilderness parks are defined as, "substantial areas where the forces of nature are permitted to function freely and where visitors travel by non-mechanized means and experience expansive solitude, challenge and personal integration with nature" (*Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Guidelines* 1992).

Wilderness Continuum

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

4.0 Goal

Including the recommended park additions, Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is Ontario's 4th largest park and 3rd largest wilderness class park. It meets the wilderness park class target for Ecoregion 4S and plays an important role in the achievement of wilderness targets for the provincial parks system. The goal of the Ontario provincial parks system is, "to provide a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and to protect provincially significant natural, cultural, and recreational environments in a system of provincial parks." Woodland Caribou Provincial Park fits into this system by protecting an outstanding wilderness landscape, natural features and cultural resources, and by providing high quality recreational and educational experiences.

4.1 Wilderness Continuum

Early in the process, it was identified that a goal of this and subsequent plans would be to move Woodland Caribou Provincial Park towards the Ontario Parks' definition of a wilderness class park (section 3.0). Through discussions with the Advisory Committee and Project Planning Team, the wilderness continuum concept was born. The wilderness continuum concept is a subjective tool used to better understand the direction that this process is going to take Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. The wilderness continuum is symbolized by a horizontal line representing wilderness. At one end of the line, the park does not meet the definition of a wilderness class park (less wilderness). At the other end, the park meets the definition completely (more wilderness). Woodland Caribou Provincial Park falls somewhere in between. Decisions made during the planning process will be measured against current conditions in the park and how these changes affect the realization of the wilderness class definition and the parks' system as a whole. At the end of this planning process and subsequent planning reviews the goal and objectives of the park will be realized if, by our management actions, the parks position on the continuum is moved in the direction of more wilderness. Different management actions will move the park's position in varying degrees but the overall intent is a move to more wilderness.

5.0 Objectives

The four objectives of the Ontario Provincial Parks system are: protection, heritage appreciation, recreation and tourism. As a wilderness class park, Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will contribute to these through the following park objectives:

- Protect the wilderness values for which the park was created.
- Support or enhance ecological health.
- Protect and support a healthy population of forest-dwelling woodland caribou.
- Protect provincially significant natural features.
- Protect cultural heritage features.
- Provide a range of backcountry tourism and recreation opportunities where it is consistent with wilderness values and resource capacities.
- Support existing facility-based tourism where it is compatible with protection objectives.
- Consider new ecotourism opportunities where they are compatible with protection objectives.
- Investigate economic opportunities with First Nations that have traditional use within the site.

5.1 Protection Objective

To protect provincially significant elements of the natural and cultural landscape of Ontario.

Wilderness parks contribute to the preservation of genetic and biological diversity, and provide remote landscapes, which are essential to maintain ecological health, and in turn provide continued health and prosperity for the people of Ontario. Designated a wilderness class park, the primary objective of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be protection.

The protection objective will be accomplished through appropriate park zoning, control of land use and activities, education, research, and monitoring of ecological impacts. Appropriate mitigation of potential impacts will ensure continued protection of significant features. Impacts that may result from park activities will be considered during management planning.

Consistent with Protecting What Sustains Us: Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be managed to protect any species at risk and their habitats, in particular, forest-dwelling woodland caribou.

Ontario's parks play an important role in representing and conserving the diversity of Ontario's natural features and ecosystems, across the broader landscape. Protected areas include representative earth, life, and cultural heritage features within ecologically defined regions. Management of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will adopt an integrative and landscape-level approach.

5.1.1 Earth Science Features

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park lies at the geographic heart of the Canadian Shield. The Canadian Shield is divided into provinces based on rock type, structure and age. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is situated in the largest province of ancient Precambrian rock, the Superior Province. Within the park are two subprovinces of the Superior Province: the Uchi Subprovince and the Berens River Subprovince. Dividing these subprovinces is a large fault zone known as the Wanipigow-Wallace Lakes fault. This zone of intense shearing and rock deformation extends from Lake Winnipeg through Crystal, Donald and Royd Lakes east to Pipestone Bay on Red Lake.

The soils, glacial features and drainage patterns of the park are the result of the last glacial period, the Late Wisconsinan. Strong evidence of glacial Lake Agassiz exists from this period in the park, in the form of lacustrine deposits of sand, silt and clay, wave-cut beach terraces and large tracts of bare bedrock cleared of debris by wave action. Most of the park became free of ice between 11,700 and 10,800 years ago. As the glaciers

glaciers melted, the debris embedded throughout the ice was deposited on the land surface as ground moraine or till. Other glacial remnants in the form of till, numerous small kames, cross-valley moraine and ground moraine deposits survive in discrete localities throughout the park. A portion of the Eagle-Finlayson Moraine is also preserved at Indian House Lake. It is extensively wave-washed and consists mostly of boulder lags.

A glacial re-advance 9,900 years ago caused Lake Agassiz to rise, submerging the park landscape. This resulted in the removal of most debris from bedrock upland areas and the sorting of finer materials such as lacustrine sands, silts and clays into deeper portions of Lake Agassiz. These lacustrine deposits are predominant along the Bloodvein and Gammon River systems but also in the Sydney Lake area. The meagre soil that was left on the wave-washed upland bedrock consists of pockets of sorted tills (mostly sands and gravels) and minor lacustrine sediments (silts and sands) as well as glacial erratics and boulders fields.

Since the draining of glacial Lake Agassiz from the area about 7500 to 7800 years ago innumerable small lakes and ponds were left behind in which organic sediments accumulated. These are now represented by areas of swamp and forested bog, which are common throughout the area.

Soil development is not extensive, with thin podzols predominating. The bare bedrock areas and lacustrine sand deposits are generally nutrient poor, resulting in limited vegetation diversity. Where finer-grained materials occur, drainage is generally poor, nutrients more abundant, and floral diversity greatly increased.

5.1.2 Life Science Features

In Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, life science values consist of provincially significant plants and plant communities, various wetland complexes, unique aquatic areas, and sensitive wildlife, such as forest-dwelling woodland caribou.

The majority of plant species found in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park are characteristic of a boreal forest ecosystem, although elements of other ecological regions are also evident. Species typical of the semi-arid prairie to the west make up the largest non-boreal floral element in the area and thus support the labelling of the park as prairie-boreal. Small numbers of arctic and moist boreal/transition species are also evident. This overlap of ecosystems creates a unique dynamic of plant communities.

Plant communities in the park which are recognized as significant include unusually large and representative wild rice marshes, intolerant coniferous and mixed forests and intolerant deciduous forests. A number of significant plant species are also found in the park including red pine, American elm, bur oak, green ash, nannyberry, prairie rush, prairie spikemoss, parsley fern, prairie crocus, prairie buttercup, floating marsh-marigold and narrow-leaved sundew.

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park lies entirely within the Nelson River Drainage basin where all waters flow into Hudson Bay via Lake Winnipeg and the Nelson River. The headwaters of six watersheds are protected within the park as well as the headwater streams of three additional watersheds.

The Bloodvein River, of which 106 kilometres lies within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, was designated as part of the Canadian Heritage River System in 1998. Waters of the Bloodvein flow west into Manitoba's Atikaki Provincial Park and on into Lake Winnipeg. Co-ordinated efforts by the provincial governments are aimed at protecting these waters. The Bloodvein is the largest and most diverse waterway in the park, being composed of larger lakes, wider river channels, and a number of falls and cataracts. This picturesque region is optimal for wilderness photography and provides excellent fishing, canoeing and kayaking opportunities.

The distribution of fish communities in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is closely tied to lake productivity. Walleye, northern pike and lake trout are the major sport fish species found in the park. The Bloodvein River system is dominated by walleye and northern pike communities. In the Gammon River system, lake trout appear along with walleye and northern pike. In the south, walleye are less frequent and are

and are replaced by lake trout/northern pike communities. Whitefish, cisco, sucker, burbot (ling) and yellow perch are common throughout the park. Muskellunge are found in only one lake in the park. This represents one of the most northerly extensions of muskellunge range in Ontario. Smallmouth bass were introduced around 1958 into Sabourin Lake and are the only known non-native fish species in the park.

Bird species which have been sighted in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park include typical boreal residents as well as various migratory and western species. The bald eagle, an endangered species in Ontario, is found in the park as are sharp-tailed grouse which are regionally significant. Other bird species include the belted kingfisher, great blue heron, double-crested cormorant, osprey, great gray owl, merlin, common nighthawk, five species of woodpecker and a diverse representation of waterfowl and songbirds. There are also several records of unusual sightings of species not characteristic of the boreal forest, such as the American white pelican and Forster's terns.

New northern range extensions for amphibians such as the green frog, snapping turtle and painted turtle, have been recorded. Mink and wood frogs also live in the park along with the red-sided garter snake, a western subspecies of the common garter snake. This is the only area where the range of this prairie subspecies is known to overlap with the eastern garter snake; illustrating the prairie-boreal influence on Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the biogeographically critical range it represents.

Typical mammal species in the boreal forest ecosystem include woodland caribou, moose, black bear, beaver, otter, mink, muskrat, fisher, marten, weasel, lynx, fox and timber wolf. Sightings of wolverine and cougar have been reported and a colony of Franklin's ground-squirrels were noted (though not confirmed) near the western border of the park in 1986.

The boreal populations of forest-dwelling woodland caribou are listed as nationally "threatened" by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). The groups located within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park represent one of the largest concentrations in Ontario south of the Hudson Bay Lowlands. In Woodland Caribou Provincial Park a priority will be to manage for population protection and sustainable caribou habitat. Maintaining a dynamic and resilient mosaic of habitats will be a key factor in sustaining the current caribou population.

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the recommended park additions are enclosed within Wildlife Management Unit 2, Unit 2P and Unit 3. Moose are locally abundant in the park even though large areas of uniform vegetation normally do not support large moose populations. Because of this, the park represents marginal moose habitat capable of supporting isolated pockets in areas of mixed vegetation. The habitats of moose and caribou appear to be mutually exclusive but as pure stands of mature jack pine disappear, moose and caribou ranges will increasingly overlap, exposing caribou to increased predation by wolves. It is inevitable that the distribution of both moose and caribou will change over time as natural disturbances, such as wildfire, continue to alter their habitats.

The wolverine has been assigned a national status of "special concern" by COSEWIC and has been designated threatened by MNR. Reduced human interaction, large areas of suitable habitat and a generous food supply (e.g. moose and caribou carrion, small mammals, etc) all contribute to the attractiveness of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park for wolverine. A radio-telemetry study conducted in the Red Lake District may further our understanding about the ecology of wolverines in and around the park. One of the radio-tagged wolverines captured outside of the park included Woodland Caribou Provincial Park as part of its home range.

5.1.3 Cultural Resources Features

In Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, special or representative archaeological and historical sites will be protected from incompatible development and/or recreation (e.g. camping and shorelunch activities).

Many people currently use Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and there is significant archaeological evidence and historical documentation to indicate that it has been inhabited and used by many different cultures into the distant past. The term "precontact" (akin to prehistoric in Old World archaeology) refers to the thousands of years of Aboriginal occupation before the arrival of Europeans in the Americas. No written records survive from this time but evidence of a vibrant culture remains in the pictographs, archaeological deposits, and especially in the oral tradition of contemporary Aboriginal occupants of the region.

The First Nation communities with traditional land use within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park have given special meaning to this cultural landscape. They have their own names for places within the park, reflecting a long and strong relationship. Like other such populations scattered across the Subarctic, land use was based upon hunting and gathering, fishing, and a political system based loosely upon an extended network of family members. Given the diffuse and seasonal nature of their food supply, these small bands of people were very mobile, and utilized large territories over the course of each year. To support this mobile lifestyle, they developed highly efficient and portable technology, as well as a social system designed to protect themselves from periodic hardships. The archaeological sites found throughout the region demonstrate the antiquity of this lifestyle.

Archaeologists interpret ancient Aboriginal history by studying artifacts recovered from archaeological sites as well as by collaborating with Elders from neighbouring First Nation communities. There are numerous intact sites in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, although only a small number have been documented. They represent thousands of years of occupation, with gradual transformation of the lifestyle being based upon the introduction of new tool types, subtle shifts in the subsistence resources exploited, and cultural influences from surrounding societies in other environmental zones.

Literature describes that Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and area contained secondary fur trade activity consisting of travel routes and trading posts. To date no trading post sites have been documented.

5.2 Heritage Appreciation Objective

To provide opportunities for exploration and appreciation of the outdoor natural and cultural heritage of Ontario.

The heritage appreciation objective will be achieved through structured and unstructured opportunities for resource-based interpretation of natural and cultural heritage through publications, displays and visitor services (section 10.5). Provincially significant cultural heritage includes Aboriginal habitation, exploration, the fur trade and the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River (section 9.3.1). Natural heritage includes the significant earth and life science features of the park.

5.3 Recreation Objective

To provide Provincial Park outdoor recreation opportunities ranging from high-intensity day-use to low-intensity wilderness experiences.

Remoteness makes Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and it's surrounding communities a vacation destination rather than a day-use opportunity. The rugged topography of interconnected lakes and rivers makes the park ideal for multi-day canoe travel. Beaches, cliffs and clear lakes encourage visitors to explore, photograph and fish. The park also presents opportunities for seasonal appreciation (e.g. autumn colours), bird watching, and wildlife viewing.

The recreation objective will be achieved through appropriate park zoning, the identification of management policies to prevent any compromise of significant natural and/or cultural heritage values, market research, and monitoring and mitigation of recreational impacts.

5.4 Tourism Objective

To provide Ontario residents and out-of-province visitors with opportunities to discover and experience the distinctive regions of the Province.

Local outfitting services provide wilderness backcountry experiences. Registered backcountry visitors to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in 2004 were primarily from the United States (80%) with an increasing number from Manitoba and Ontario (20%). The average length of stay is approximately six days. Many visitors are repeat users of the park and stay for extended periods of up to three weeks (61 days in one instance).

The majority of guests utilizing facility-based tourism operations in the park are primarily interested in sport fishing and originate from the United States. These operations attract over 3,100 visitors for a total of 17,980 rental nights (pers. comm. Bastone, 2005).

Tourism industry trends appear to favour an aging population of travellers, increased concern for the environment, and a greater interest in outdoor education. These trends suggest market growth potential for guided adventure opportunities and ecotourism. As well, trend analysis of visitors from overseas (Europe and Asia) indicate that there is a strong interest in natural and cultural heritage appreciation, particularly that of First Nations. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and its tourism partners are well-positioned to create international enthusiasm and attraction which will benefit local communities and promote the Ontario wilderness experience.

The tourism objective, like the recreation objective will be achieved through appropriate park zoning, market research, monitoring and mitigation of recreational impacts, as well as the exploration of partnerships and new markets.

6.0 *Summary of Significant Issues (not ranked)*

A number of significant issues have been identified through the planning process. These issues were presented in the Issues and Options document along with proposed options for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the recommended park additions.

Access

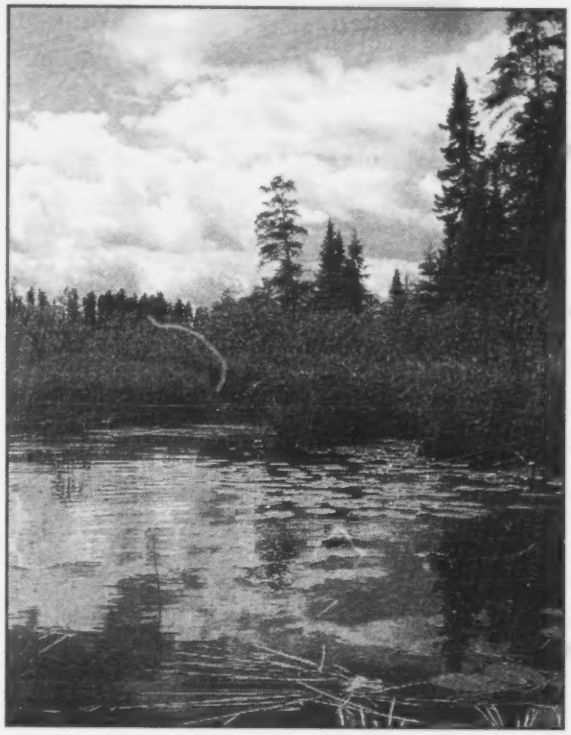
Access can lead to conflicts between different user groups, problems with erosion, litter, and the possible deterioration of the park environment and the quality of park experiences. Discussion related to access ranged from the type of access to the location of access zones and the impacts of access on wilderness values.

User Conflicts

Part of the appeal of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is its wilderness setting and remote quality. To many users this means no roads, development, motorized activity and few human interactions. Yet for some, wilderness experiences are enhanced through roofed accommodations, motorized travel and signage. The often divergent interests of the two user groups create user conflict.

Motorized Use

Motorized travel can decrease the experience of remoteness and isolation and may conflict with the definition of a wilderness class park, yet in specific areas of the park, there is a need to accommodate motorized use.



Protection of Significant Natural Features

Nature reserve zones protect provincially significant and representative earth and life science features to help ensure their long-term preservation for future generations. Activities not permitted in nature reserve zones may be permitted in adjacent wilderness zones.

Protection of habitat is critical for maintaining a healthy population of forest-dwelling woodland caribou in the park. Human activities may directly or indirectly have negative impacts on caribou populations.

7.0 Boundary

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (P2370e) is located between the Municipality of Red Lake in northwestern Ontario and the Manitoba border. It is associated with two administrative districts of the Ministry of Natural Resources; primarily with the Red Lake District in which it is located but also with the Kenora District which shares the park's southern boundary. The park is intended to protect the representative earth and life science features of Ecoregion 4S and to provide opportunities for backcountry canoeing, camping, and facility-based tourism.

The four additions to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park include the areas of Anchor Lake, Peisk/Lund Lakes, Douglas/Foley Lakes, and Sydney/Rowdy Lakes. These recommended park additions (P2370) were recommended through Ontario's Living Legacy - Land Use Strategy (1999). Upon approval of the park management plan, regulation of the Sydney/Rowdy and the Douglas/Foley Lake recommended park additions will begin immediately. Peisk/Lund Lakes and Anchor Lake recommended park additions will continue to be protected on an interim basis and will be added to the park once replacement wood supplies are secured from other locations.

There are several patent properties located in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. These properties are privately owned and are not part of the park, although they are surrounded by park land. Patent properties are located on Douglas, Larus, Hatchet, Carroll, Donald and Hansen Lakes. Use of these properties ranges from a commercial lodge to private cottage locations.

8.0 Zoning

As a wilderness class park, there are four zoning categories available to guide the protection, resource management, and operations of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. The four zones are: nature reserve, historical, wilderness, and access.

Zoning is based on the sensitivity of the natural and cultural values, the degree of development and recreational uses, and management practices of the park. Management planning uses the best resource inventory information available to identify the constraints and capabilities of a park. Carrying capacity, limits of acceptable change, existing use, access and dispersal patterns are assessed when designating zones. With new information about earth and life science features (e.g. species at risk habitat) and cultural heritage values, adjustments to zoning may be considered.

Zoning is also based on the reality that visitors do not use all resources in the same way and that all activities are not carried out everywhere, nor should they be. For example, an area with provincially significant vegetation or wildlife features (e.g. caribou calving/nursery areas) may be damaged by high-intensity recreation activities. Therefore a nature reserve zone designation may be chosen which restricts use to very low-impact recreation. Policies related to permitted uses and development in each zone serve as guidelines for park management planning and are applied consistently throughout the Ontario Parks system.

Figure WCPP-2 shows the general location of the Nature Reserve, Wilderness and Access Zones for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park as determined through this planning process. No historical zones have been identified at this time but may be included in the future as required (section 8.2).

8.1 Nature Reserve Zones

8.1 Nature Reserve Zones

Nature reserve (NR) zones protect provincially significant and representative earth and life science features to help ensure the long-term preservation of such features for future generations. These areas may require management different from the adjacent land base in order to protect provincially rare plant species, represent significant geological structures and landform processes, protect headwater areas, represent unique vegetative communities and habitats, and to safeguard representations of landscape units found in the park. Development is generally restricted to trails, necessary signs, interpretive facilities (where warranted) and temporary facilities for research and management. Motorized travel and camping are not permitted in nature reserve zones.

Depending on the type of earth and/or life science features the zone was established to protect, objectives and policies for nature reserve zones may be managed to promote either evolution or perpetuation. Nature reserve zones which are established to ensure that evolutionary patterns remain intact may allow natural processes to take their course (e.g. fire, insect and disease outbreaks, erosion, etc). This type of approach is particularly valuable for research by serving as a benchmark against which the effects of human intervention can be evaluated. Where the perpetuation of a particular feature or successional stage is desirable, then an approach involving active management may be undertaken. This may involve the deliberate protection of a rare vegetative community or duplicating natural processes under controlled conditions (e.g. prescribed burning).

Consideration has been given to the protection of representative aquatic features (e.g. lakes) within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. To date, there has not been sufficient information collected to identify and incorporate a particular feature or representative fish community into a nature reserve. Should an additional nature reserve zone be recommended in the future, an amendment to the management plan will be made complete with public consultation. Currently, some work is being conducted with respect to the genetic variation in native lake trout stocks within the park.

Within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, 16 areas have been identified as having provincially significant features which require protection. Eleven of these are found in the existing park (NR1 – NR6, NR8 - NR12). One is situated in both the existing park and the Anchor Lake recommended park addition (NR7) and four are located entirely in the Sydney/Rowdy Lake recommended park addition (NR12 - NR16). These provincially significant features will be protected by nature reserve zone designations.

NR1 - South Artery Lake Wetland *(1,180 hectares)*

The South Artery Lake Wetland includes excellent examples of rich sedge meadows which contain rare plant species, one of two hardwood swamps found in the park, and good examples of porphoritic granites which are representative of one of the major rock units in the park (Figure WCPP-3). In areas where there are existing recreational features (e.g. campsites) and no conflict exists with the features that the NR1 is intended to protect, the nature reserve boundary has been delineated to provide for compatible uses.

NR2 - Bloodvein River Savannah *(24.6 hectares)*

This area of open oak communities can be described as a "savannah" (Figure WCPP-4). Bur oak communities are provincially significant and contain rare plants which may be stressed by human disturbance. Although the communities are relatively small and restricted by suitable habitat, they are excellent examples of prairie species communities in a warmer period of post-glacial history.

NR3 - Larus Creek Wetland *(4,595.7 hectares)*

The Larus Creek Wetland represents the deeper and richer lacustrine silts and clays of the middle Bloodvein River watershed which supports the largest percentage of hardwoods in the park (Figure WCPP-4). A number of provincially rare plants are found here including floating marsh-marigold and Vasey's pondweed. In areas where there are existing recreational features (e.g. campsites) and no conflict exists with the features that the NR3 is intended to protect, the nature reserve boundary has been delineated to provide for compatible uses.

NR4 - Olive Lake *(3,495.2 hectares)*

Rich patterned fen and a number of provincially rare plant species such as Vasey's rush, parsley fern and prairie spikemoss are located in this zone (Figure WCPP-5). Shorelines of glacial Lake Agassiz also occur in association with spillways which are significant for understanding the retreat of the glaciers from the park area. Good examples of the granitic components of the Beren's River subprovince are also represented. In areas where there are existing recreational features (e.g. campsites) and no conflict exists with the features that the NR4 is intended to protect, the nature reserve boundary has been delineated to provide for compatible uses.

NR5 - Carroll Lake *(1,204.4 hectares)*

This zone includes excellent examples of subaqueous fan deposits created by flowing meltwater from retreating glaciers as well as good representation of the metamorphosed rocks of the Berens River subprovince (Figure WCPP-6). Provincially rare plant species, such as prairie crocus and prairie spikemoss, are also found within this zone.

NR6 - Crystal Lake Shear Zone *(1,493.3 hectares)*

Excellent examples of subaqueous fan deposits created by flowing meltwater from retreating glaciers as well as good examples of the metamorphosed rocks of the Berens River subprovince are represented in this zone (Figure WCPP-7). An excellent representation of the Wanipigow-Wallace Lakes fault is also found here. This major shear zone between the Berens River and Uchi subprovince is an obvious feature which contributes to the interpretation of the geological processes of the park. In areas where there are existing recreational features (e.g. campsites) and no conflict exists with the features that the NR6 is intended to protect, the nature reserve boundary has been delineated to provide for compatible uses.

NR7 - Eagle-Finlayson Moraine *(5,324.9 hectares)*

Zone NR7 supports very rich wetlands and marshes, including the largest patterned fen in the park (Figure WCPP-8). There is good representation of black spruce bog forests here. This zone also represents the highly modified portion of the provincially significant Eagle-Finlayson moraine and associated features such as outwash, lacustrine and ground moraine deposits. This is considered to be the northern extension and possible termination of this moraine system. Bedrock features of the Uchi subprovince are also represented in this zone including, the highly altered remains of the Red Lake greenstone belt, and mild faulting conditions at the east end of the Wanipigow-Wallace Lakes fault. In areas where there are existing recreational features (e.g. campsites) and no conflict exists with the features that the NR7 is intended to protect, the nature reserve boundary has been delineated to provide for compatible uses. This nature reserve (NR7) was selected for its' terrestrial features, therefore, lakes enclosed within this nature reserve do not form part of the nature reserve.

NR8 – Telescope Lake American Elm Community
(5.7 hectares)

The range of American (white) elm in Canada stretches from Nova Scotia, to central Ontario, through southern Manitoba, and ends in south-eastern Saskatchewan. It's occurrence on Telescope Lake represents one of the most northerly stands of American elm in northwestern Ontario (Figure WCPP-8). Black ash is also present in this nature reserve. There is considerable regeneration of both black ash and American elm, though the size of the site suitable for the regeneration of these species is a limiting factor.

NR9 – Haggart Lake Red Pine Community
(0.9 hectare)

There are relatively few occurrences of red pine in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and these represent some of the most northerly known locations in northwestern Ontario. These communities are located on two small islands at the south end of Haggart Lake (Figure WCPP-9).

NR10 - Shear Lake Shear Zone *(1,375.4 hectares)*

Shear Lake provides examples of a shear zone and related mineralization associated with the Wanipigow-Wallace Lakes fault (Figure WCPP-10). Cliffs in this zone occur in the same area as a collection of wave-washed deposits typical of glacial Lake Agassiz's action on deposits from the Wisconsinan glacier. In areas where there are existing recreational features (e.g. campsites) and no conflict exists with the features that the NR10 is intended to protect, the nature reserve boundary has been delineated to provide for compatible uses.

NR11 - Eagle Lake *(2,614.1 hectares)*

The life science features within this nature reserve include rich fen meadows and southern flora such as ten-flowered showy goldenrod and purple chokeberry (Figure WCPP-11). An example of the highly altered remains of the Red Lake greenstone belt is captured in this zone. In areas where there are existing recreational features (e.g. campsites) and no conflict exists with the features that the NR11 is intended to protect, the nature reserve boundary has been delineated to provide for compatible uses.

NR12 – Kilburn Lake Prairie Communities
(2,309.8 hectares)

The lacustrine silts and clays of Kilburn Lake support excellent mixed and deciduous forests representative of more southern regions. Delicate wetland flora, including several species of rare rushes, are also found here (Figure WCPP-12). Visible geological structures representing the Uchi subprovince are also present. In areas where there are existing recreational features (e.g. campsites) and no conflict exists with the features that the NR12 is intended to protect, the nature reserve boundary has been delineated to provide for compatible uses.

NR13 - Sydney Lake Prairie Community
(10.7 hectares)

The Sydney Lake area contains excellent representations of prairie plant communities intermixed with local boreal species. These remnant communities persist on microclimate sites of small exposed bedrock shores with south-facing exposures (Figure WCPP-12). These plant communities may be genetically distinct from other populations and important for biodiversity conservation. The flora and physical environment is very similar to that of the bur oak communities.

NR14, NR15 - Sydney Lake, and NR16 - Rowdy Lake Savannahs *(12.5, 18.3 and 3.6 hectares respectively)*

These provincially significant bur oak communities can be described as "savannahs". Although the communities are relatively small and restricted by suitable habitat, together they provide excellent examples of prairie species communities from a warmer period of post-glacial history (Figure WCPP-13).

8.2 Historical Zones

Historical zones (HI) represent and protect significant cultural heritage resources to help ensure the long-term preservation of such features for future generations. They usually incorporate a specific site and the surrounding landscape.

Photo: George Plager

There are many significant cultural areas within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park although none have been identified for protection by historical zoning at this time. Consultation with First Nations has resulted in an effective yet subtle approach to protecting these valuable resources (i.e. designate campsites). Consultation with First Nations and the Ministry of Culture will continue to ensure these resources remain protected. If information is collected which would necessitate the development of a historical zone, an amendment to the Park Management Plan will be required (section 15.0).

8.3 Wilderness Zones

Wilderness zones (WI) are areas of appropriate size and integrity which can protect natural and cultural values as well as support backcountry tourism and recreation opportunities. Development is limited to primitive backcountry camping, portages, trails, signs necessary for route identification, and facility-based operations where consistent with park values and policy.

Resource management policies for wilderness zones are directed towards minimizing human interactions; support for evolving natural succession; maintaining a wilderness setting and remote quality; and encouraging backcountry tourism and recreation opportunities. User conflict, based on motorized travel versus non-motorized travel, was identified as a concern for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Recognizing this, management planning has resulted in the creation of five wilderness zones (Figure WCPP-2). The direction for recreation and tourism activities in each zone may differ in order to provide for various user groups, yet all wilderness zones will follow the wilderness continuum concept towards the realization of more wilderness (section 4.1). Backcountry travelers can expect to experience some motorized use in the Bloodvein and Gammon Wilderness Zones due to the concentration of facility-based tourism operations and patent land structures. In the Northern, Central, and Southern Wilderness Zones backcountry travellers will encounter a lower level of motorized use. Furthermore, the significance and/or sensitivity of the resources within these areas will be acknowledged and park policies may limit or prohibit recreational use to ensure that the protection of natural and cultural features is not compromised.

Northern Wilderness*

The Northern Wilderness comprises the area within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park north of the Bloodvein River system (Figure WCPP-2). This area is relatively remote and is mainly accessed through a combination of float plane and/or water travel. The Northern Wilderness can be entered from the Bloodvein or Chukuni River systems or from the Musclow and Keeper River systems to the north.

Central Wilderness*

The Central Wilderness includes the area between the Bloodvein River and Gammon River systems as well as the recommended Douglas/Foley Lake, Anchor Lake and Peisk/Lund Lake recommended park additions (Figure WCPP-2). The area is characterized by a network of small lakes connected by portages which provide linkage between the Gammon and Bloodvein River systems. This area has good potential for canoe route expansion. It can be accessed from outside of the park via Pipestone Bay (Red Lake) or through the current Johnson Lake entry point via Douglas and Hatchet Lakes.

** The Northern, Central and Southern Wilderness total 418,570.5 hectares.*

Southern Wilderness*

The Southern Wilderness includes the Sydney-Rowdy Lake recommended park addition and the area of the park south of the Gammon River system (Figure WCPP-2). This is currently the most popular backcountry canoeing area due to its accessibility by road (Leano Lake) and that it provides a number of possible loop options that do not require a float plane. Although boat caches are common in this area, encounters with boats are generally less common than elsewhere in the park due to the seasonal nature of their use, the result of a predominantly lake trout fishery.

A primary forest access road, crossing between Sydney and Rowdy lakes is permitted.

Bloodvein Wilderness *(13,779 hectares)*

The Bloodvein Wilderness includes the Bloodvein River system and Sabourin Lake (Figure WCPP-2). The Bloodvein River, of which 106 kilometres lies within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, was designated as a Canadian Heritage River in 1998. The headwaters of the Bloodvein River will be partially protected by the Peisk/Lund Lake recommended park addition and the Pipestone Bay-McIntosh Enhanced Management Area. Waters of the Bloodvein River flow west into Manitoba's Atikaki Provincial Park and on into Lake Winnipeg. Co-ordinated efforts by both provincial governments are aimed at protecting these waters.

Gammon Wilderness *(11,940 hectares)*

The Gammon Wilderness follows the Gammon River and includes Upper Hatchet, Hatchet and Douglas Lakes (Figure WCPP-2). The Gammon Wilderness can be accessed from outside the park through Onnie or Johnson Lake. The Douglas/Foley Lake recommended park addition also provides access through Douglas Lake via Trout Bay (on Red Lake). Lastly, the Gammon Wilderness can be accessed from within the park using portage and canoe routes from the South and Central Wilderness.

8.4 Access Zones

Access zones (A) serve as staging areas where minimal development supports the use of adjacent zones. They may offer year-round or seasonal access. Development may include roads, visitor control structures, self-use orientation, interpretive, and/or educational facilities. To increase backcountry tourism and recreation opportunities, these staging areas shall range from maintained tertiary roads to floatplane access to low-intensity, water entry points. The characteristics of individual access zones will be determined by the method of entry, spatial relationship to other zones, current and potential circulation/dispersal patterns of backcountry users. These zones do not provide campgrounds or day-use facilities. Road access zones may have limited development such as a parking area and/or a trail to a canoe launch site. Water access zones may not have any development and will be restricted to watercraft only. Air access zones may have a dock with a minimal upland/shore staging area. Access zones will work collectively to disperse use and provide opportunities for creative exploration of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

8.4.1 Year-round Access Zones

Twenty year-round access zones have been created to provide access to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (Figure WCPP-2). These include a combination of road (2), water (14), and air access (4) zones.

A1 - Access Zone 1 *(98.3 hectares)*

Air - A1 is located on the Bloodvein River just west of Artery Lake (Figure WCPP-3). This zone forms part of a small lake which straddles the Ontario/Manitoba provincial border. Existing development on this waterbody consists of an outpost camp within Atikaki Provincial Park in Manitoba. This lake is currently used by commercial aircraft to service the outpost camp. This lake will also serve as a drop-off point where backcountry travellers begin their adventure down the Bloodvein River to Lake Winnipeg. The Atikaki Provincial Park Draft Management Plan has identified the Manitoba portion of this border lake as an air access zone. For Ontario, regulating access to this lake will prohibit aircraft landings on Artery

Lake, alleviate some user conflicts, and enhance the wilderness character of the area.

A2 - Access Zone 2 *(3.5 hectares)*

Water - A2 is located in the Northern Wilderness on the Musclow River, approximately five kilometres east of Musclow Lake (Figure WCPP-14). Access Zone 2 will work in conjunction with Access Zone 3 to provide access to the Northern and Bloodvein Wilderness.

A3 - Access Zone 3 *(2,109.5 hectares)*

Air - A3 is located on Sabourin Lake (Figure WCPP-14). Development on this waterbody consists of a main base lodge. This access zone will permit dispersion of use upstream or downstream on the Bloodvein River and will work in conjunction with Access Zone 2 to provide access to the Northern and Bloodvein Wilderness. Discussions are ongoing with Sabourin Lake Lodge who have expressed an interest in permitting aircraft to use their docking facilities to provide safer drop offs and pick ups.

A4 - Access Zone 4 *(0.3 hectares)*

Water - A4 is located in the Northern Wilderness approximately 8 kilometres north of Burntwood Lake (Figure WCPP-14). Access Zone 4 will work in conjunction with Access Zone 5 to provide access to the Northern Wilderness.

A5 - Access Zone 5 *(1.2 hectares)*

Water - A5 is located in the northeast corner of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park at an unnamed lake east of Olive Lake (Figure WCPP-5). Backcountry travellers can enter the park at this location after travelling up the Chukuni River starting from the junction of the Chukuni River and Pine Ridge Road or by travelling west from Valhalla Lake after being dropped off by private or commercial aircraft. Access Zone 5 will work in conjunction with Access Zone 4 to provide access to the Northern Wilderness.

A6 - Access Zone 6 *(2.9 hectares)*

Water - A6 is located just west of Carroll Lake on the Gammon River (Figure WCPP-6). Backcountry travellers currently entering the park at this location usually originate from the Wallace Lake Provincial Campground in Manitoba.

A7 - Access Zone 7 *(0.6 hectares)*

Water - A7 is located in the Carroll Lake area at the outflow from Obukowin Lake (Figure WCPP-6). Backcountry travellers currently entering the park at this location usually originate from the Wallace Lake Provincial Campground in Manitoba.

A8 - Access Zone 8 *(1,412.8 hectares)*

Air - A8 is located in the Gammon Wilderness on Donald Lake (Figure WCPP-7). Donald Lake has four patent properties and a Land Use Permit (private recreational camp). Access Zone 8 provides numerous dispersal options and because of its' proximity to Access Zone 13, will work collectively to provide access to both the Central and Southern Wilderness.

A9 - Access Zone 9 *(3.7 hectares)*

Road - A9 is located near Lund Lake (Figure WCPP-15). Access to this zone can be gained by travelling the Nungessor, Pine Ridge and McIntosh roads (approximately 75 kilometres). This zone will permit access to the headwaters of the Bloodvein River via Knox Lake.

A10 - Access Zone 10 *(5.3 hectares)*

Water - A10 is located at the west end of Red Lake in Trout Bay (Figure WCPP-16). This zone will provide entry to the Douglas Lake area after paddling or being shuttled from the community of Red Lake. Due to the limited capacity for backcountry travellers to disperse into this area and because of the area's sensitivity, Access Zones 10, 11 and 12 will work collectively to provide and disperse access to the headwaters of the Gammon River system.

A11 - Access Zone 11 *(1.1 hectares)*

Water - A11 is located on Douglas Creek (Figure WCPP-16). Access to this zone can be gained by travelling the Suffel Lake Forest Access Road and entering the park via Johnson Lake. Due to the limited capacity for backcountry travellers to disperse into this area and because of the area's sensitivity, Access Zones 10, 11 and 12 will work collectively to provide and disperse access to the headwaters of the Gammon River system.

A12 - Access Zone 12 *(9.4 hectares)*

Water - A12 is located on Hjalmar Lake which is adjacent to the southern section of the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area (Figure WCPP-8). Backcountry travellers can access the park at this location after beginning their trip via Johnson Lake (Suffel Lake Forest Access Road) or through Onnie Lake (Iriam Lake Forest Access Road). Due to the limited capacity for backcountry travellers to disperse into this area and because of the area's sensitivity, Access Zones 10, 11 and 12 will work collectively to provide and disperse access to the headwaters of the Gammon River system.

A13 - Access Zone 13 *(252.4 hectares)*

Air - A13 is located in the Gammon Wilderness on Hansen Lake (Figure WCPP-10). Structural development on Hansen Lake consists of one patent property that has been divided up into five parcels. Access Zone 13 provides numerous dispersal options and will work collectively with Access Zone 8 to provide access to both the Central and Southern Wilderness.

A14 - Access Zone 14 *(0.9 hectares)*

Water - A14 is situated on the Wanipigow River just west of Crystal Lake (Figure WCPP-7). Backcountry travellers entering the park at this location usually originate from Siderock Lake in Manitoba.

A15 - Access Zone 15 *(24.8 hectares)*

Water - A15 is located in the southwest corner of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park at Garner Lake (Figure WCPP-9). Most backcountry travellers entering the park at this location originate from Beresford Lake in Manitoba.

A16 - Access Zone 16 *(0.7 hectares)*

Water - A16 is located north of Eagle Lake, providing entry to the Southern Wilderness via an unnamed lake south of Irregular Lake (Figure WCPP-11). Eagle Lake is located on the periphery of the park in the Eagle – Snowshoe Conservation Reserve. Access Zones 16, 17 and 18 will work collectively to provide access to the Southern Wilderness from Eagle Lake.

A17 - Access Zone 17 *(0.7 hectares)*

Water - A17 is located on Eagle Lake, providing entry to the Southern Wilderness via the Bird River (Figure WCPP-11). Eagle Lake is located on the periphery of the park in the Eagle – Snowshoe Conservation Reserve. Access Zones 16, 17 and 18 will work collectively to provide access to the Southern Wilderness from Eagle Lake.

A18 - Access Zone 18 *(2.4 hectares)*

Water - A18 is located on Eagle Lake, providing entry to the Southern Wilderness via the Talon River (Figure WCPP-11). Eagle Lake is located on the periphery of the park in the Eagle – Snowshoe Conservation Reserve. Access Zones 16, 17 and 18 will work collectively to provide access to the Southern Wilderness from Eagle Lake.

A19 - Access Zone 19 *(3.7 hectares)*

Road - A19 is located at Leano Lake (Figure WCPP-12). This is currently the most popular entry point in the park as a result of its proximity to a road network (Iriam Lake Road/Mile 51) and the ability to disperse quickly into the park. This access zone provides entry to the Southern Wilderness where route options are numerous.

A20 - Access Zone 20 *(1.5 hectares)*

Water - A20 is located where Rowdy Lake empties into the Sturgeon River (Figure WCPP-13). Access Zone 20 provides alternate access to the Southern Wilderness.

8.4.2 Seasonal Access Zones

In order to support existing activities while protecting natural and cultural features as well as wilderness values, a different approach will be used in the recommended park additions; access zones with seasonal conditions. Creating these seasonal access zones and authorizing existing trails in the recommended park additions will permit existing recreational activities (hunting and snowmobiling) to continue, limit user conflicts, and continue to protect provincially significant natural and cultural values. Seasonal conditions will be in effect between September 12 and March 31 of the following year, when hunting and ice fishing mainly occur.

Reconfiguration of seasonal access zones As5 (Page Lake) or As7 (Peterson Lake) in the Anchor Lake recommended park addition will be required to permit access from the adjacent enhanced management area. Similarly, seasonal access zones As9 (Sydney Lake) and As10 (Rowdy Lake) will also be reconfigured to create access from adjacent Crown land. Suitable locations will be determined following site inspection and collaboration with local users.

As1 - Peisk Lake *(219.7 hectares)*

Aircraft/snowmobile - As1 is located in the Peisk/Lund Lakes recommended park addition and is adjacent to the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area (Figure WCPP-15). This seasonal access zone is located on the southern portion of Peisk Lake.

As2 - Connecting Trail *(85.3 hectares)*

Snowmobile only - As2 is an existing snowmobile trail in the Peisk/Lund Lakes recommended park addition (WCPP-15). This seasonal access zone includes the snowmobile trail and two unnamed lakes. As2 permits existing access to continue by connecting Peisk Lake with the adjacent Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area.

As3 - Crystal Lake *(134.6 hectares)*

Aircraft/snowmobile - As3 is located in the Anchor Lake recommended park addition (Figure WCPP-16). All of Crystal Lake will be zoned seasonal access.

As4 - Connecting Trail *(1.9 hectares)*

Snowmobile only - As4 is located in the Anchor Lake recommended park addition and is an existing snowmobile trail that connects Crystal Lake (As3) with Page Lake (As5) (Figure WCPP-16).

As5 - Page Lake *(168.3 hectares)*

Aircraft/snowmobile - Page Lake is located in the Anchor Lake recommended park addition (Figure WCPP- 16). All of Page Lake will be zoned seasonal access.

As6 - Connecting Trail *(0.2 hectares)*

Snowmobile only - As6 is located in the Anchor Lake recommended park addition and is an existing snowmobile trail that connects Page Lake (As5) with Peterson Lake (As7) (Figure WCPP-16).

As7 - Peterson Lake *(177.8 hectares)*

Aircraft/snowmobile - Peterson Lake is located in the Anchor Lake recommended park addition (Figure WCPP-16). All of Peterson Lake will be zoned seasonal access.

As8 - Anchor Lake *(90.4 hectares)*

Aircraft only - Anchor Lake is located in the Anchor Lake recommended park addition (Figure WCPP-16). Through public consultation, this lake was identified to be important for the continuance of the permitted activity of hunting in the recommended park addition. All of Anchor Lake will be zoned seasonal access.

As9 - Sydney Lake *(5729.9 hectares)*

Aircraft/snowmobile - Sydney Lake is located in the Sydney/Rowdy Lakes recommended park addition (Figure WCPP-12, WCPP -13). All of Sydney Lake will be zoned seasonal access.

As10 - Rowdy Lake *(1157.6 hectares)*

Aircraft/snowmobile - Rowdy Lake is located in the Sydney/Rowdy Lakes recommended park addition (Figure WCPP-13). All of Rowdy Lake will be zoned seasonal access.

9.0 Resource Stewardship Policies

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be managed in accordance with the policies identified for wilderness class parks in *Ontario Provincial Parks: Planning and Management Guidelines* (1992). The park is located within Ontario's Living Legacy planning area and is therefore also subject to policies in the *OLL Land Use Strategy*.

In this section, direction is provided to integrate protection and management of the resources in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Although resource policies are described under various headings, all planning and management will recognize that these components are interdependent in the context of the park and the surrounding landscape. Ecosystems are continuously transforming in response to changing conditions and influences, therefore, an adaptive management approach will be applied to resource management activities within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Adaptive management allows for modification of management strategies in response to monitoring and analysis of results from past actions.

The effects of climate change may influence the resource management policies of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park over the long term, and possibly within the 20 year context of this plan (WCSS section 10.0). These effects should be considered during any reviews of this plan, and management strategies adapted accordingly.

Ontario Parks will continue to encourage open communication and the maintenance of relationships with adjacent Crown land stakeholders and managers (MNR Field Services Division, Mining and Forestry industries, Whitefeather Forest) to ensure park values are protected and landscape issues (e.g. woodland caribou management) are cooperatively addressed. This will include involvement in Forest Management Planning processes and other land use planning initiatives on a case-by-case basis.

9.1 Terrestrial Ecosystem Management

Terrestrial ecosystems and the biodiversity within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be documented through inventories, assessments and research (section 10.6). Every effort will be made to manage ecosystems on a landscape level. The intent will be to maintain ecological health by supporting biodiversity and an evolving natural succession of communities.

9.1.1 Vegetation

The majority of plant species found in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park are typical of a boreal forest however, there are a significant number of resident prairie species and the resulting mixed communities are represented in the park. The prairie and boreal habitat mosaic has been fashioned by wildfire dynamics and fire suppression efforts. The park currently provides critical habitat (winter and summer) for forest-dwelling woodland caribou. This complex landscape requires a specific vegetation plan. The vegetation plan will be developed in a separate process and will include public consultation.

Trees may be selectively removed by authorized persons for the purpose of constructing infrastructure such as portages and campsites. Dead material may be used for firewood. Commercial forestry operations are not permitted in the park.

Non-native plant species will not be deliberately introduced into the park. In this plan, non-native plant species includes flora not native to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the Ecoregion it is intended to represent (section 2.0). Where feasible, control actions will be taken to eliminate or reduce the threat of non-native species which may negatively affect the health or diversity of naturally occurring populations. Extirpated native species may be reintroduced and/or existing populations replenished, if determined to be important for perpetuating park values. When management controls are necessary, techniques will be used so as to minimize effects on other components of the park environment.

Commercial harvesting is not permitted in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park except for wild rice harvesting by First Nations with traditional use in the park.

The location of sensitive plant communities will not be advertised to prevent damage and unauthorized specimen collection.

9.1.2 Fire

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Ontario Parks, recognizes fire as an essential ecosystem process, fundamental to maintaining or restoring the ecological sustainability of protected areas in the boreal forest region. Wildfire is recognized as the most influential natural force acting on the forested ecosystems of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

In association with the vegetation management plan (section 9.1.1), fire management planning will be undertaken in cooperation with the Aviation and Forest Fire Management Branch and other stakeholders. A fire management plan will further develop objectives and protection priorities, and guide implementation through fire response and fire use. Until such time that a fire management plan for the park is approved, fire management within the park will be carried out in accordance with the Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario (OMNR, 2004).

Fire management involves the protection of values and the attainment of resource stewardship objectives through two main areas:

Fire response: The protection of people, property and natural areas from wildfire, and,

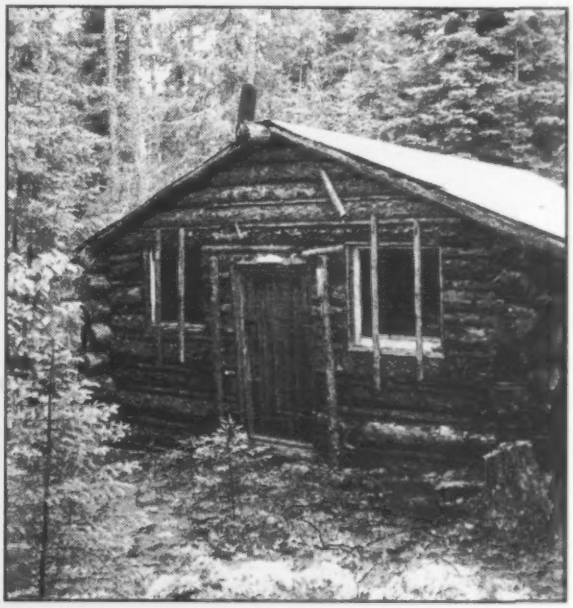
Fire use: The strategy of maintaining fire as an ecological process or meeting resource management objectives through the application or management of prescribed fire.

The Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario provides strategic direction for the management of wildfire across the province. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is located within the Parks Fire Management Zone according to this provincial strategy.

Fires in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will generally receive a: Full Response, within the fire management program capacity. Sustained Action requires the approval of a Fire Assessment Report (FAR). Modified and/or Monitored Response will be used in consultation with the Park Zone Manager and/or their designate (i.e. Park Superintendent). The Interim Fire Response Strategy for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be used to assist in establishing response priorities.

9.1.3 Insects and Disease

Insects and disease are an essential part of any ecosystem. Though infestations of insects and diseases are natural, they may be actioned where cultural, natural, aesthetic, or adjacent economic values are threatened. Where feasible, control actions will be taken to eliminate or reduce the threat of non-native species which may negatively affect the health or diversity of naturally occurring populations. In this plan, non-native species includes those not native to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the Ecoregion it is intended to represent (section 2.0).When management controls are necessary, they will be applied as directly as possible to the target insect or disease so as to minimize effects on other components of the park environment. Biological controls will be used in preference to chemical applications, whenever feasible and appropriate.



9.1.4 Wildlife

The Woodland Caribou Signature Site lies within Wildlife Management Units 2, 2P and 3. Wildlife objectives for the Woodland Caribou Signature Site will be addressed in the development of a management strategy for the North West Region.

The primary wildlife management objective for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be to protect and maintain the resident forest-dwelling woodland caribou population. This will involve the periodic monitoring of the population and the protection of critical habitat areas (e.g. winter habitat and calving/nursing areas). Vegetation management will play a critical role in maintaining sufficient areas of critical habitat for woodland caribou.

Non-native wildlife species (e.g. birds, mammals, reptiles, etc) will not be deliberately introduced into the park. In this plan, non-native species includes those not native to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the Ecoregion it is intended to represent (section 2.0). Where feasible, control actions will be taken to eliminate or reduce the threat of non-native species which may negatively affect the health or diversity of naturally occurring populations. Appropriate methods of population control may be undertaken directly by Ontario Parks, or through partnerships under the strict supervision of Ontario Parks. Extirpated native species may be reintroduced and/or existing populations replenished, if determined to be important for perpetuating park values. When management controls are necessary, techniques will be used so as to minimize effects on other components of the park environment.

9.1.4.1 Hunting

Hunting is not permitted in the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, however, hunting is permitted in the recommended park additions with consideration for safety and conservation. Hunting is not permitted in nature reserve zones within recommended park additions. Affected nature reserve zones include NR7 and NR13 - NR16. At the time when the recommended park additions are regulated a subsequent regulation under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act is also required specific to the nature reserve zones.

Existing Bear Management Areas located in the recommended park additions can continue. No new bear hunting operations will be permitted.

Hunting in the recommended park additions depends on a suitable access strategy. Seasonal access zones (section 8.4.2) have been created which will support hunting, while also protecting park values. Seasonal access zones will be in effect between September 12 and March 31 of the following year. A primitive weapons only hunt was not fully supported by the public but may be considered in the future if interest is renewed.

9.1.4.2 Trapping

There are 26 registered traplines located wholly or partially within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Currently, 18 traplines are held by First Nation trappers, six traplines are held by non-native trappers and two traplines are vacant. Licensed commercial trapping by non-natives will be phased out of the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park by December 31, 2009. Existing commercial fur harvesting will be permitted to continue in the recommended wilderness park additions indefinitely. No new traplines will be permitted in the existing park or recommended park additions. Vacant traplines will be allocated to First Nations with traditional use in the park. Allocation will be done in consultation with First Nations. Any reloca-

Allocation will be done in consultation with First Nations. Any relocation or construction of trails and cabins will be subject to ecological principles and consideration of park values.

9.1.5 Land Management and Disposition

The management of landforms and activities on the land in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will aspire to maintain the ecological health of the wilderness landscape and protection of values for which the park was created. Protection of special and/or representative earth features of the park will be a priority for land management in the park. This will include the protection of significant surficial and bedrock geological features by means of nature reserve or wilderness zone designations, re-routing of existing portages, designating campsites, or refining boundaries where necessary.

To provide for recreation and tourism opportunities, while protecting the park environment, it is necessary to manage land use. Various land-use activities and tenures are permitted within parks. It is necessary to manage existing land dispositions to protect significant natural and cultural features. Any new dispositions will be consistent with wilderness park policy and meet wilderness park objectives.

9.1.5.1 Mining

There are no existing mining activities within the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park or the recommended park additions. New mining activity, including prospecting, staking of mining claims, development of mines, or the extraction of aggregates will not be permitted in the park or the recommended park additions.

9.1.5.2 Commercial Tourism

There are 12 resource-based tourism operations with 21 facilities located within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Three are main base lodges located on patent land, three are main base lodges with Crown Lease tenure and 15 are outpost camps with Land Use Permit (LUP) tenure. Most tourism operations and their facilities are located along the Gammon and Bloodvein River systems. Existing tourism operations in wilderness parks, and related activities (e.g. motorboating) will remain but are subject to considerations (Appendix WCPP-1). The Park Superintendent may authorize improvements to existing facilities and services on a case-by-case basis. New tourism operations may be considered provided they are consistent with wilderness park policies and objectives. Transfer of existing tourism operations under LUP or Crown Lease tenure will be subject to review and approval by Ontario Parks/MNR.

Additional conditions to commercial tourism operations under LUP or Crown Lease may be applied should sustainability of the resource be at issue. Commercial tourism operations on patent land may be subject to resource-use regulations.

9.1.5.3 Private Recreation Camps

There are five private recreation camps with LUP tenure within the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park which will be phased out by December 31, 2009. Infrastructure is to be removed and the site returned to as original a state as possible. There is one private recreation camp in the Sydney/Rowdy Lakes recommended park addition. As stated in the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy, existing private recreation camps in recommended park additions will be permitted to continue. No new private recreation camps will be permitted within the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park or the recommended park additions.

9.1.5.4 Patent Lands

Twelve parcels of patent land exist within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Three parcels are commercial tourism establishments and nine are classed as private summer resort locations. One of these parcels contains five separate lots, akin to a sub-division. The acquisition of patent land is a goal of this management planning process and will be approached on a case-by-case basis. Commercial tourism operations and private recreation originating from patent land within the park may be subject to resource-use regulations.

9.2 Aquatic Ecosystem Management

The maintenance of healthy aquatic ecosystems is a priority for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. As the need arises and as resources allow, inventory and analysis will be performed for various components of the aquatic ecosystems within the park.

9.2.1 Fisheries

The priority for fisheries management will be to protect native fish communities and maintain healthy, naturally reproducing, high-quality fisheries. In order to protect native gene pools and fish communities, no stocking or introductions will be permitted within the park unless required to supplement threatened native populations.

In cooperation with research partners (section 10.6), additional aquatic analysis and inventory work will be completed in order to better understand the current state of the fisheries resource in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. If it is determined that more direction is needed, a fisheries management plan will be prepared. Park users and stakeholders may be approached to participate in special management and fisheries assessment programs.

9.2.1.1 Sport Fishing

Sport fishing is permitted in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. All fishing activity will be subject to the policies and regulations of the appropriate fisheries management zones as set out by the Ontario Fishing Regulations.

Consideration was given to placing conditions on sport fishing (e.g. prohibiting lead tackle or live bait) but will not be implemented at this time. Such management options may again be considered with the development of a fisheries management plan. With the support of the Advisory Committee, tourism operators and the public, a 'conservation limit only' regulation will be pursued for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in an attempt to ensure the maintenance of high quality fishing opportunities and to promote conservation ethics.

Non-native fish species will not be deliberately released into the park. In this plan, non-native species includes those not native to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the Ecoregion it is intended to represent (section 2.0). Appropriate management controls may be undertaken directly by Ontario Parks, or through partnerships under the strict supervision of Ontario Parks. Extirpated native species may be reintroduced and/or existing populations replenished, if determined to be important for perpetuating park values. When management controls are necessary, techniques will be used so as to minimize effects on other components of the park environment.

Smallmouth bass were introduced into Sabourin Lake in 1958 and the population has now expanded to include Thicketwood Lake, Musclow Lake, Barclay Lake, Mary's Lake and other lakes connected to Sabourin Lake by the Bloodvein River. This introduction may have harmful effects on the native fisheries community (walleye/pike) through direct competition. Research on this population is necessary to evaluate the current status and further assess the potential impacts. An education program will be implemented to inform park guests of the effects of non-native introductions, such as smallmouth bass.

9.2.1.2 Commercial Fishing and Bait Harvesting

Commercial fishing and commercial bait fishing are prohibited in wilderness class parks. Commercial fishing does not presently occur in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and new operations will not be permitted. Commercial bait harvesting will be phased out of the existing park by December 31, 2009. Existing commercial bait harvesting will be permitted to continue in the recommended wilderness park additions indefinitely. No new commercial baitfish operations will be permitted in the recommended park additions.

9.2.2 Water Management

Commercial hydro-electric development is not permitted in provincial parks. Ontario Parks will provide plan input and review to development proposals adjacent to the park.

9.3 Cultural Ecosystem Management

Ontario Parks will work in partnership with local First Nations to plan and implement measures to maintain the integrity of Aboriginal sites throughout Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Ontario Parks will consult with First Nations on matters pertaining to Aboriginal history, sites in the park associated with Aboriginal culture, interpretation of Aboriginal history, and the appropriate use of cultural artifacts.

The Ministry of Natural Resources will continue to work with the Ministry of Culture in the inventory, protection, and maintenance of archaeological and historical sites within the park. Licensed archaeologists may be permitted to carry out investigations with prior written approval from Ontario Parks and under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture. Significant archaeological discoveries may necessitate alterations to future development plans and/or park zoning.

Cultural resources will be managed to ensure their protection and to provide opportunities for heritage appreciation and research (where these activities do not impair the resource). In order to protect cultural resources from human disturbance, the location of these sites will not be promoted in order to prevent the unauthorized collection of artifacts. The unauthorized removal of artifacts or the destruction of historical features is prohibited and illegal.

9.3.1 Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River

The Bloodvein River is recognized by the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) for its' outstanding natural and cultural values and recreational opportunities. As part of the Ministry of Natural Resources' responsibilities under the CHRS and its related guidelines, activities which may affect river values will be monitored. The parameters chosen for monitoring will relate to maintaining the integrity of the park. Ontario Parks will report any changes in the condition of the river and values for which it was designated, to the CHRS Board through the annual CHRS report. Every ten years a "State-of-the-River" report will also be submitted to the Board.

A Resource Management Strategy, reflecting wilderness class park policies, was written for the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River in 1998. Where direction between this park management plan and the 1998 Resource Management Strategy differ, the Resource Management Strategy will be amended.

10.0 Operational Policies

A park operating plan will be prepared to provide park staff with the necessary information required to operate the park on a day-to-day basis. In addition to addressing the operational policies that follow, the park operating plan will include administration, staffing, occupational health and safety, maintenance schedules, enforcement and emergency services. The provisions of the operating plan will be consistent with the approved Ontario Provincial Parks Minimum Operating Standards (1992). The operating plan will be reviewed annually and revised as required (section 15.0).

10.1 Recreation Management

Recreation management aspires to provide a variety of recreational opportunities while minimizing negative environmental impacts in recognition of the park's significant landscape. In particular, low-intensity recreational activities which enable visitors to relate with the park environment and appreciate its natural and cultural values will be encouraged.

Ongoing evaluation of the park's recreational resources is critical to the establishment of use targets and recreation management prescriptions. Initial priorities for monitoring which have been identified include: fish and wildlife populations, resource use, group size, trip length, compliance with conditions on LUPs and Crown leases, and the condition of backcountry campsites and portages. These will be further expanded/modified as information is collected and as resources permit. Monitoring is integral to the management, long-term protection and sustainability of park resources.

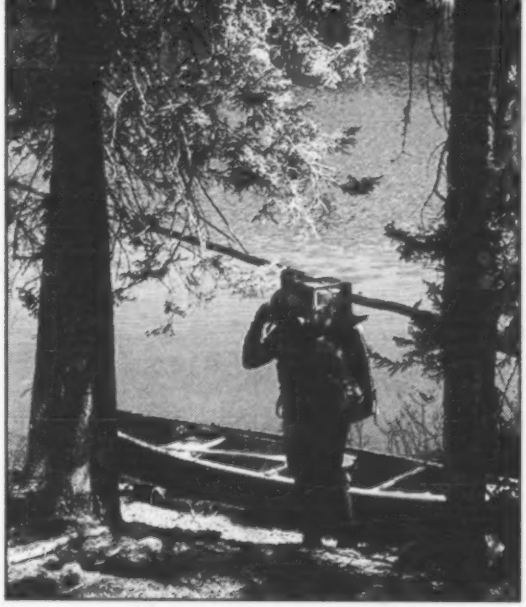


Photo: Hale Ozake

10.1.1 Backcountry Travel

A visitor management program will be introduced in order to minimize environmental deterioration, protect natural and cultural features, and to maintain a quality wilderness experience. This program will be based on an ongoing assessment of recreational impacts on park resources and implemented through a quota-based entry system.

Through the visitor management program, camping permits will be issued based on a daily or weekly entry quota for each access zone. By managing access to the park through an entry-based quota system, visitors will be dispersed more evenly into the park. This will reduce areas of concentration, reduce user conflicts, and advance environmental protection. A visitor management program can also provide increased protection for woodland caribou by distributing users away from critical habitat during key periods.

The visitor management program will be a component of the park operating plan and will be phased in as use levels dictate.

10.1.2 Campsites

Regulations limiting campsite occupancy to one party per site will continue. The maximum party size will remain at nine people. Campsites will be monitored for site deterioration including unauthorized structures, tree damage, litter, root exposure, loss of vegetative ground cover, and human waste. If required, limitations may be imposed on specific lakes or at campsites situated within specific areas of the park, particularly in the vicinity of access zones and central travel corridors.

As part of the visitor management program, a designated campsite system will be implemented that will restrict use to authorized campsites as designated on a park map. The use of authorized campsites will lessen the chance that rare plant species or significant plant communities will be inadvertently impacted; will provide protection to the numerous cultural values located throughout the park by subtly directing visitors away from these sensitive areas; will disperse visitors to reduce user conflicts; and will enhance the overall wilderness experience. It is important to implement a system that, as a general principle, ensures that visitors experience the maximum freedom of choice once entry to the interior has been gained. Visitors will be able to choose from a number of identified campsites on a first-come first-serve basis. The establishment of new campsites by park users will not be permitted.

The designated campsite system will also include seasonally regulating campsites on islands and peninsulas in areas of importance to woodland caribou (e.g. calving/nursing areas). These campsites will be identified on the campsite map and will be closed from May 01 – June 30 of each year.

Open fires will be permitted in the park, unless a Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) has been put in place by the Aviation and Forest Fire Management Branch. Park staff will work closely with Fire staff in the promotion of fire safety and prevention messages.

10.1.3 Litter

Regulations pertaining to litter under the Provincial Parks Act will be strictly enforced. Glass bottles, outside of tenured land, will be banned in all zones following the approval of this management plan. The continued use of cans was determined to be acceptable. The litter issues in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park are mainly, unauthorized dump sites used by the tourism industry and campsite garbage (mostly plastic and organics). Park staff will communicate concerns to park users to eliminate litter in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. A pack it in – pack it out policy will be enthusiastically promoted.

10.1.4 Shorelunch Areas

As part of the facility-based tourism experience, shorelunch areas are used on a regular basis in some areas of the park. Shorelunch opportunities can continue, with conditions, and will require authorization from the Park Superintendent.

10.2 Motorized Travel

Motorboats are the main means of motorized travel within the park, however there is also snowmobile, ATV, and private and commercial aircraft use. Motorized travel, as part of the existing commercial tourism operations, will be permitted with restrictions. Motorized travel will occur mainly within access zones and the Bloodvein and Gammon Wilderness Zones. In the remainder of the park motorized use will be limited to promote backcountry camping and canoeing experiences. This action will continue to move Woodland Caribou Provincial Park further along the wilderness continuum.

10.2.1 Motorboats

Motorboats are used in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park for commercial tourism, sport fishing, and access to private property. Motorboats are also used by First Nation peoples to carry out their traditional activities. Motorboats may be used for commercial tourism operations within wilderness and access zones in wilderness class parks, with restrictions on motor size.

Motorboats used in commercial tourism operations in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be permitted on specific lakes with horsepower restrictions (Appendix WCPP-1). In general, a maximum of 10 horsepower will apply for all watercraft except on Carroll, Sydney, Sabourin, Barclay, Mary's and Simeon Lakes where increased horsepower will be permitted due to safety issues on these larger watersystems. The main base tourism operations located on Sydney, Sabourin, Douglas, Carroll and Rowdy Lakes will be permitted one motor of a larger horsepower than listed in Appendix WCPP-1. This watercraft will be used for emergency and camp operations only. All horsepower restrictions will take effect on January 01, 2010.

With respect to the Ontario-Manitoba Boundary Waters Agreement, commercial tourism motorboat use originating from the Province of Manitoba will be permitted. Horsepower restrictions will apply and motorized use will be restricted to the waterbody on which the facility is situated. Private motorboat use originating from Manitoba will not be permitted. Dialogue regarding management of boundary waters (e.g. fisheries management, motorized use) will be renewed between the two provinces, specific to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

Motorboat use by private residents is not permitted in wilderness class parks. Existing motorboat use by owners of patent land in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be allowed to continue as a non-conforming use until such time as the patent land is acquired by Ontario Parks. Horsepower restrictions will apply (Appendix WCPP-1) and motorboat use will be restricted to the lake where the patent exists. All horsepower restrictions will take effect on January 01, 2010.

Personal watercraft (jet skis) are currently not used for recreation in the park and will be prohibited based on manufacturer standards which exceed the maximum horsepower permitted.

On all other lakes, motorized travel will be prohibited except for emergency situations and enforcement/park operation purposes.

10.2.2 Snowmobiles

Recreational snowmobiling has occurred in some areas of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the recommended park additions prior to 1983. Management planning has resulted in the direction to eliminate this non-conforming use over time. The elimination of recreational snowmobiling in the existing park is consistent with wilderness park policy and provides added protection for threatened woodland caribou which require large, undisturbed habitats for survival success. This action will be phased-in over a ten year period upon approval of this document. This phase-out strategy will allow Ontario Parks and MNR to work with local snowmobile enthusiasts to determine new or appropriate routes of access through the enhanced management area and/or adjacent Crown land to the recommended park additions where snowmobiling will be permitted on authorized trails and lakes through seasonal snowmobile access zoning (section 8.4.2).

Public consultation identified specific lakes and trails where recreational snowmobiling occurs, primarily for the purpose of ice fishing. Figure WCPP-17 shows the areas where recreational snowmobiling currently takes place in the existing park and illustrates the phase-out strategy. Following the approval of this management plan, recreational snowmobiling will only be permitted in the identified areas and use will continue to be pulled back towards the park boundary over a ten year period. At the end of year two snowmobile use in the Linge, Middle Kilburn, Upper Kilburn, Haggart, Bulging, Broken Arrow, Crystal and Carroll Lakes will no longer be permitted. At the end of year five, recreational snowmobiling in the Blueberry, Dragon, Talon, Larus, Thicketwood and Indian House Lake areas will no longer be permitted. At the end of year eight, recreational snowmobiling in the Sylvia, Douglas and Hatchet

recreational snowmobiling in the Sylvia, Douglas and Hatchet and Murdoch Lake areas will no longer be permitted. At the end of the phase-out period (year 10) recreational snowmobiling will conclude in the existing park in the Knox, Veronica, Bilko and Beaver Lake areas.

10.2.3 All-Terrain Vehicles

ATVs will not be permitted for recreational use in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. ATVs will be permitted for use associated with tourism operations but will be restricted to the tenured boundary of the operation.

10.2.4 Private Aircraft

Use of privately owned aircraft is a non-conforming use in most zones within wilderness class parks. A phase-out of this activity in wilderness, nature reserve and historical zones will be implemented upon approval of this plan. Figure WCPP-18 illustrates the phase-out strategy.

In years one and two, following the approval of this plan, private aircraft will be permitted to land in all areas of the park. Over the next two years (years three and four) private aircraft landings will be permitted on Linge, Knox and Murdock Lakes as well as in all year-round air access zones (section 8.4.1) and in seasonal air access zones (section 8.4.2). Beginning in year five, private aircraft use will be permitted in year-round air access zones and seasonal air access zones only.

Patent land owners will be permitted to use their own private aircraft to access their private property (section 10.3.1). Trappers and commercial bait fishers will be permitted to use private aircraft for the purpose of resource harvesting.

10.3 Access

Access to the park through the establishment of access zones (section 8.4) is intended to encourage opportunities for remote backcountry recreational experiences. Access zones used in conjunction with a visitor management program (section 10.1.1) will disperse use and add to the protection of park values. Access to the park for backcountry purposes other than at designated access zones must be approved by the Park Superintendent.

Access to the park may require additional controls if there are found to be negative impacts on natural or cultural values, unreasonable conflicts with park users, or new uses are established which are not appropriate in a wilderness class park.

10.3.1 Air Access

All aircraft landing in the park will require prior authorization through a valid aircraft landing authority from Ontario Parks. Daily or seasonal vehicle permits will apply.

Air access by commercial air services will be permitted in access zones which are designated for aircraft landing (section 8.4), at commercial tourism facilities in wilderness zones, at private property and at authorized remote boat cache locations in wilderness zones.

Private air access will be permitted in year-round and seasonal air access zones only, following a four year phase-out strategy (section 10.2.4). Private aircraft owned by landowners and immediate family[1] will be permitted for access to their private property.

Resource harvesters are permitted to use private and commercial aircraft to access their operations.

1. "Immediate family" as defined in the *Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation Act* (Regulation 665/98).

10.3.2 Road Access

Development will occur at two existing road access locations, Lund Lake and Leano Lake. These are the only road access zones into Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and new road access is not planned. These zones will work in conjunction with the visitor management program. The Lund Lake road access zone (A9) will improve access to the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River and backcountry opportunities in the north part of the park. The Leano Lake road access zone will permit continued access to the south which has well established backcountry canoeing and camping opportunities. Development in each of these access zones will consist of a small parking area.

The Leano Lake road access zone (A19) depends on the presence of the Iriam Road. Since forestry operations which would use the road are not planned for the foreseeable future, Abitibi Consolidated has identified their intention to formally abandon the Iriam Road (Whiskey Jack Forest 2004-2024 Forest Management Plan). This would include the section of Iriam Road immediately north of the Cook Road to the junction of the Iriam and South Pakwash Roads. Secondary and tertiary roads off of the Iriam Road along this section would also be abandoned. Negotiations are ongoing to develop a maintenance agreement for the Iriam Road as well as a portion of the Cook Road and Mile 51 Road so that public use can continue. Negotiating parties include: Ontario Parks and Field Services Divisions of the MNR, the forest industry, backcountry outfitters, a local facility-based operator, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, the Municipalities of Red Lake and Ear Falls, trappers, and the mining industry. Access to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park via Leano Lake will depend on the outcome of these negotiations.

10.3.3 Water Access

Water access zones will also work in conjunction with the visitor management program. These access zones are moderate to highly remote and are reached via forest access roads in Ontario and Manitoba; requiring a few hours to a few days of paddling. No development except for appropriate signage will occur.

10.3.4 Seasonal Access

Seasonal access zones are located at the periphery of the park and have been created to support approved activities in the recommended park additions as a result of the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy. Seasonal access zones will have timing restrictions applied (e.g. access permitted between September 12th to March 31st of the following year). Activities in seasonal access zones will be monitored and should sustainability of the resource be at risk, quota-based entry regulations may be applied.

10.4 Commercial Tourism

Facility-based commercial tourism has existed in what now is known as Woodland Caribou Provincial Park since 1948. Existing commercial tourist operations will remain (subject to possible restrictions). New tourism opportunities and changes to existing operations may be considered (section 9.1.5.2).

Boat caches are boats that are stored on park land and used for a variety of purposes. In Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, boat caches are used to support facility-based tourism operations, resource harvesting and transportation to private land. There are two main types of boat caches within the park: portage-to boat caches and remote fly-in boat caches. All cached boats must have and meet the conditions of an approved Ontario Parks Boat Cache Agreement.

10.4.1 Portage-to Boat Caches

Portage-to boat caches have been identified as an important component of facility-based tourism in the park. Portage-to boat caches are situated on lakes that are adjacent to the main facility via portage trails. This type of opportunity has provided an alternate experience to the user as well as dispersing the fishing pressure over a series of lakes. Portage-to boat caches are viewed as part of the existing tourism operations and will remain, with possible restrictions. In cases where the portage trails are shared by both facility and backcountry clients, mooring structures may be permitted to relieve congestion at portage trail heads. Storage structures will be allowed to secure equipment. Specifications depicting restrictions, size, type and loca-

Specifications depicting restrictions, size, type and location of additional storage will be part of an Ontario Parks Boat Cache Agreement.

10.4.2 Remote Fly-in Boat Caches

In Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, remote fly-in boat caches are accessed by aircraft and used by commercial operators whose facilities are based both within and outside of the park. The planning process has confirmed that action should be taken to support and encourage high quality remote backcountry adventure tourism opportunities. This direction has resulted in the decision to create large areas of primarily non-motorized use through the removal of remote fly-in boat caches. This action will have the most effect in the Northern, Central and Southern Wilderness but is not restricted to these zones. This action will affect some operations more than others therefore the process will include discussions with individual operators to ensure a workable strategy is implemented. The process may involve a series of steps which could include: immediate removal, relocation, consolidation, a move to non-motorized caches, and/or seasonal use restrictions. The ultimate goal will be to create large, primarily non-motorized areas which will support backcountry adventure tourism and carry Woodland Caribou Provincial Park further along the wilderness continuum.

10.5 Natural Heritage Education

The Natural Heritage Education program provided in a particular park will depend on several factors, one being the park classification. In addition to falling under a particular park class, all operating parks are assigned a level of service (self-use, seasonal activity, or major activity) which determines the extent of the Natural Heritage Education program to be provided. The level of service is based on such criteria as the significance of natural and cultural resources, accessibility, level of use and demonstration of visitor needs. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is currently designated as self-use.

Strategies for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park's Natural Heritage Education program will:

- provide detailed, up-to-date route information.
- foster appreciation for the park's natural, cultural and recreational values and the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River.
- provide information about local attractions and services.

A Natural Heritage Education plan will be prepared as part of the park operating plan. Specific program direction may include, education initiatives designed to enhance awareness of, and involvement in, the park by area schools and other interest groups (e.g. naturalist clubs, youth groups, etc); structured and unstructured recreation opportunities for exploration and appreciation of Aboriginal culture, the fur trade, the earth and life science features, and the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River; and interpretive opportunities with partners of the park.

10.5.1 Information

Opportunities to learn and gain an appreciation of the character and significance of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be presented in printed material (e.g. park leaflets, newsletter, trail and canoe route maps, etc), signs and information kiosks, and through park staff. Information will be provided on the park, park system and local attractions. Emphasis will be placed on management messages such as wilderness ethic, safety in the outdoors, park etiquette, and designated campsites. This self-use level of service may be complemented by the development of interpretive materials (section 10.5.2). Ontario Parks will work with local groups, school boards, First Nations, and tourism to develop and distribute information.

10.5.2 Interpretation

Relaying information about the natural and cultural resources of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will be the focus of interpretation. Themes will include woodland caribou, geology, cultural legacy and boreal forest ecosystems. Through self-use interpretative materials, visitors will be offered the opportunity to experience and understand the meaning and purpose of wilderness.

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will work in partnership with local First Nations to ensure that any interpretation of Aboriginal cultural features is accurate and appropriate. The direct involvement of local First Nations in interpretive programs and activities is a priority (section 10.6) and will be encouraged.

10.5.3 Tourism Services

Tourist information is available from the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park office in Red Lake. As part of the tourism objective, Ontario Parks has entered into a partnership with the Red Lake Publicity Board for the promotion and distribution of information regarding area provincial parks. This information will be distributed at the Red Lake Heritage Centre and at various sport and adventure shows. Ontario Parks will continue to work in co-operation with regional tourism organizations, local municipalities, and commercial tourism operators to fulfill and optimize park promotion and marketing objectives.

10.6 Research and Partnerships

Scientific research and monitoring by qualified individuals and institutions which will be compatible with the park's protection objective and contribute to the knowledge of natural and cultural history and to environmental and recreational management will be encouraged. All research and monitoring will be conducted or authorized by Ontario Parks. Research projects will be administered on the basis of park policy directive PM 2.45 and must meet all requirements under applicable provincial and federal legislation. Approved research and monitoring activities must be consistent with *Ontario Parks' Research and Information Strategy*. Temporary facilities in support of approved research and monitoring activities may be permitted.

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to participate in the operation of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Ontario Parks will remain open to any interest in the development of a non-profit cooperative association (e.g. Friends of Woodland Caribou). Assistance may be sought through partnerships to aid in, for example, environmental cleanup or to enhance natural heritage education programming.

10.6.1 Pikangikum First Nation/Ontario Parks Partnership

The First Nation of Pikangikum and Ontario Parks have entered into a partnership for that part of the park that is within their traditional lands as defined by traplines currently held by Pikangikum people or traplines historically occupied by Pikangikum people. The agreement document deals mainly with two areas, research and interpretation of Ojibway Cultural Landscapes, and economic and cooperative stewardship opportunities.

Pikangikum and Ontario Parks will explore a cooperative partnership which would focus on documenting the Pikangikum cultural legacy, both the historical and ongoing presence of their people on the lands. This research program will incorporate the stewardship and protection responsibilities for the cultural heritage of Pikangikum First Nation. Interpretation of the Aboriginal cultural heritage within the traditional lands of Pikangikum First Nation will be the shared responsibility of Pikangikum First Nation and Ontario Parks, the scientific responsibility of the outside research community and the broader scale responsibility of Ontario.

Ontario Parks supports the exploration of a partnership to develop a world-class initiative which could include a research, experiential teaching program and visitor centre related to interpreting First Nation's cultural heritage. Ontario Parks will not endorse or support Aboriginal cultural heritage interpretation within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park without the agreement of the associated First Nation. The partnership will pursue stewardship opportunities consistent with the protected areas planning framework for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park within the traditional territories of Pikangikum First Nation.

10.6.2 Manitoba/Ontario Interprovincial Wilderness Area

Ontario Parks and Manitoba Conservation will create an Interprovincial Wilderness Area consisting of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario, Atikaki Provincial Park and portions of Nopiming Provincial Park in Manitoba. Areas of cooperation between the Provinces could include resource management, marketing and operations. In total, these protected lands encompass approximately one million hectares of natural and cultural values.

10.7 Marketing

Visitors to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park include local residents, persons from other parts of Ontario, Canada, North America, and around the world. People learn about the park through Ontario Parks' publications and website, commercial tourism operators, local tourism organizations, word of mouth, and various other publications and internet sites which promote adventure travel.

A review of park attractions, management issues and marketing methods will be ongoing to determine how to raise the awareness and appreciation of park values and to increase the safety of visitors and awareness of the "leave no trace" ethic for wilderness travel.

Strategies for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park's marketing program will:

- provide detailed, up-to-date park information.
- foster appreciation for the natural, cultural, and recreational values of the park and the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River.
- provide information about local attractions and area services.
- promote backcountry and facility-based tourism services.

Care will be taken to ensure that marketing initiatives do not create over-use of the park and that the values for which the park was created are protected.

11.0 Development Policies

This section presents the development for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Approved site plans and implementation planning will be completed for all development projects. e Ministry of Natural Resources' environmental assessment requirements, which may require prior assessment for significant values and further public consultation, will be met prior to project implementation.

Recreational development will be limited in order to protect the integrity of the resource base and, in doing so, assure a quality wilderness experience for park visitors. Development will be sufficient only to permit compatible wilderness activities and to minimize the impact of user concentrations. Recreational development will be restricted primarily to campsites and portages. It is largely due to this substantial limitation of recreational development, dictated by the wilderness orientation of the park, that user numbers and concentrations will be managed through a daily or weekly quota entry system and the use of established campsites.

11.1 Portages

Portages will consist of primitive pathways developed to provide relatively stable and safe passage between segments of navigable waterways. As a general principle, neither docks nor signs will be permitted at portage landings; however, in situations involving extreme hazard, these may be used. Otherwise, appropriate information on the location of and safe approach to portages will be provided in the park's visitor management program literature. Minimal storage and mooring structures may be permitted with approval from the Park Superintendent and in keeping with the wilderness orientation of the park.

The condition of portages will be continually monitored as a prerequisite to an ongoing maintenance program. Acceptable portage maintenance will include brushing, the construction of log walkways and selective surface treatments to provide safe passage or to mitigate erosion.

Opportunities will be sought to expand the present canoe route system in areas of the park where better dispersion of users is required or new experiences may be created. Portages that require relocation due to existing environmental damage will be subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.

11.2 Campsites

The ongoing inventory and evaluation of existing and potential campsites will continue in order to determine the campsite potential of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Campsite potential will not be based solely on physical criteria but also user tolerance and potential impacts on earth and life science features. As a result of this inventory some existing campsites may have to be relocated or closed.

Ultimately, all authorized campsites will be identified on park maps. Permitted campsite maintenance includes surface treatment and the discreet transplanting of local native plant species for site stabilization or rehabilitation.

Information regarding acceptable methods for disposal of human waste will be provided through park information (section 10.5.1).

11.3 MNR Fire Fuel Cache

The Aviation and Forest Fire Management Branch fuel cache on Irvine Lake will be relocated. In 2005, preliminary investigations showed the Irvine Lake area to be an excellent choice for canoe route expansion. This will provide increased backcountry recreation opportunities through new interconnecting routes within the Central Wilderness and between the Bloodvein and Gammon Wilderness as well as reducing user conflicts and advancing the park along the wilderness continuum. The relocation of the fuel cache and its associated uses will reduce user conflicts in this area.

11.4 Access Zones

Development in access zones will be dictated by the mode of access designated for each access zone. Development will be based on the capacity and physical suitability of the site, as well as the level of usage and associated entry quota for the site. Road access zones may have limited development such as a parking area and/or a trail to a canoe launch site. Parking areas will be developed for Lund Lake (A9) and Leano Lake (A19) access zones. Improvements will be made to parking areas in the Onnie Lake and Johnson Lake areas which are staging areas for the Douglas Creek (A11) and Hjalmar Lake (A12) access zones. Development in water access zones will be restricted to appropriate signage. Safe loading and unloading areas within air access zones will be identified and may require the construction of a dock and/or a minimal upland/shore staging area. The location, design and any materials used will be consistent with the wilderness orientation of the park.

11.5 Trails

At this time, public consultation did not support a day-use interpretive hiking trail as a priority for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Should demand for this type of activity increase, an impact and benefit analysis will be completed. A trail would be established only where compatible with wilderness values and resource capacities. An interpretive hiking trail could provide an opportunity for natural and cultural appreciation by individuals, school and other groups that, due to the remoteness of the park, can not readily access the park interior. Information collected during an analysis will be presented to the public for comment during a future plan review.

Some questions regarding the activity of dog sledding arose during management planning. A specific policy regarding dog sleds in wilderness class parks does not currently exist. There is concern regarding the effects of this activity so until such time that an approved policy is in place, dog sledding will not be permitted in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

11.6 Signage

Signage will be used to identify the Woodland Caribou Park Boundary at all entry points and other areas where the park may be at risk to development. The location, design and any materials used will be consistent with Ontario Parks sign standards and with the wilderness orientation of the park.

12.0 Implementation Priorities

This section presents a summary of the priorities and policies to be implemented upon the approval of this park management plan. In the implementation of the approved park management plan, Ontario Parks may pursue opportunities for partnerships involving other agencies and groups. Park development, operations, and resource stewardship will be contingent upon the availability of funding and unforeseeable changes in priorities or policy. Implementation of the management plan and operation of the park will meet the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act, Environmental Bill of Rights, Provincial Parks Act, Endangered Species Act, and other pertinent legislation.

All aspects of park management, development, and operation will be screened and undertaken in accordance with the requirements of *A Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.*

Implementation priorities may be established in subsidiary operating and resource stewardship plans. Preparation of these plans may involve an appropriate level of public consultation.

12.1 Boundary

- Regulate OLL recommended park additions and regulate as part of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. (section 7.0 and WCSS section 10.0)
- Identify seasonal access zone for the recommended Anchor Lake park addition. (section 8.4.2)

12.2 Resource Stewardship

- Prepare a vegetation management plan which will consider Woodland Caribou Provincial Park's unique prairie-boreal habitat mosaic; critical habitat for forest-dwelling woodland caribou; and fire's role in the ecosystem. (section 9.1.1)
- In association with the vegetation management plan, fire management planning will be undertaken in cooperation with MNR's fire program. This plan will further develop objectives and protection priorities, and guide implementation through fire response and fire use. (section 9.1.2)
- In order to protect and maintain the resident forest-dwelling woodland caribou population, periodic monitoring of the population and the protection of critical habitat (e.g. winter habitat and calving/ nursing areas) will be implemented. (section 9.1.4)
- Implement an education program on the effects of introducing non-native fish species into a natural system (e.g. smallmouth bass). (section 9.2.1.1)
- Pursue conservation limits only for sport fishing in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. (section 9.2.1.1)
- Continue consultation with First Nations and the Ministry of Culture to determine the most effective way of protecting significant cultural areas as they are identified. (section 8.2 and section 9.3)

12.3 Operations

- Prepare a park operating plan to provide park staff with the necessary information required to operate the park on a day-to-day basis. The park operating plan will include administration, staffing, occupational health and safety, maintenance schedules, enforcement and emergency services. The operating plan will be reviewed annually and revised as required. (section 10.0)
- Ongoing evaluation of the recreational resources of the park in order to establish use targets and recreation management prescriptions consistent with the long-term protection of the park. (section 10.1)
- The introduction of a visitor management program based as determined through an ongoing assessment of recreational impacts on park resources and implemented through a quota-based entry system. (section 10.1.1)
- A campsite system will be developed which will restrict use to authorized campsites designated on a park campsite map. Campsites will be periodically monitored for site deterioration including unauthorized structures, tree damage, litter, root exposure, loss of vegetative ground cover, and human waste. (section 10.1.2)
- Seasonally manage camping on islands and peninsu-

- Seasonally manage camping on islands and peninsulas in areas of importance to woodland caribou. These campsites will be identified on the park campsite map and will be closed from May 1 – June 30 of each year. (section 10.1.2)
- Activities in seasonal access zones will be monitored and should sustainability of the resource be at risk, quota-based entry regulations may be applied. The timing restrictions for seasonal access will also be monitored and re-evaluated on an ongoing basis. (section 10.3.4)
- The development of an Ontario Parks Boat Cache Agreement. (section 10.4.1)
- Develop and implement a strategy to remove remote fly-in boat caches. (section 10.4.2)
- A Natural Heritage Education plan will be prepared as part of the park operating plan. Specific program direction may include, education initiatives designed to enhance awareness of, and involvement in, the park by area schools and other interest groups (e.g. naturalist clubs, youth groups, etc). Other initiatives could include structured and unstructured recreation opportunities for exploration and appreciation of Aboriginal culture, the fur trade, earth and life science features, and the Bloodvein Canadian Heritage River as well as interpretive opportunities with partners of the park. (section 10.5)
- Ontario Parks will work with local groups, school boards, the Red Lake Publicity Board, First Nations and the tourism industry to develop and distribute information about the park, park system, local, and regional attractions. (sections 10.5.3)
- Woodland Caribou Provincial Park will work with Pikangikum and other First Nation partners in the research and interpretation of Aboriginal culture. (section 10.6.1)
- Implement the creation of an Interprovincial Wilderness Area in cooperation with the Province of Manitoba. (section 10.6.2)

12.4 Development

- Expand the present canoe route system where better distribution of users is required and/or where new experiences may be created. (section 11.1)
- Relocate portages due to environmental damage. (section 11.1)
- Inventory and evaluate existing and potential campsites to obtain the appropriate campsite potential of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. As a result of this inventory some existing campsites may have to be relocated or closed. (section 11.2)
- Develop and improve parking areas at Lund Lake and Leano Lake access zones respectively. Improve parking areas in the Johnson Lake and Onnie Lake areas which provide initial access to the Douglas Creek (A11) and Hjalmar Lake (A12) access zones. (section 11.4)
- Develop and/or identify safe loading and unloading areas within air access zones. (section 11.4)
- Construct information kiosks at major entry points to relay important park messages for people entering the park. (section 11.6)

13.0 Plan Review and Amendment

An Approved Park Management Plan can be reviewed or amended to address changing issues or conditions. A review may involve a re-assessment of all or part of an approved plan, including classification, zoning, goal, objectives and all resource management, operations, and development policies. Amendments permit changes to specific issues and needs but do not alter the overall intent of the plan.

The minimum requirement for a review is once every ten years. Every ten years the plan will be assessed to determine the need for amendment or review of the directions. A review is initiated to ensure the continuing relevance of the plan's contents or to evaluate a proposed change representing a significant departure from the original direction and intent of the plan, or in the event that the plan is rendered obsolete during its term (i.e. circumstances cause the objectives which direct park management activities to become unattainable or inappropriate).

An amendment can be considered to address specific changes which are consistent with the park's classification, goal and objectives but differ from the park's management policy statements. Anyone can initiate an amendment process by submitting a proposed amendment with an explanation of its purpose to Ontario Parks which will determine whether, and under what conditions, the amendment process should proceed. If approved, the planning, review, and approval requirements will depend on the type of amendment proposed.

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Appendix WCPP-1: Horsepower Restrictions for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

Lakes/systems with tourism facilities:	*Horsepower restrictions:*
Barclay/Mary's/Sabourin/Simeon Lakes	25
Carroll Lake	15
Craven Lake	10
Domain Lake	10
Douglas Lake	10
Embryo Lake	10
Gammon Lake	10
Haggart Lake	10
Hammerhead Lake	10
Knox Lake	10
Larus Lake	10
Murdock Lake	10
Olive Lake	10
Optic Lake	10
Peisk Lake	10
Rowdy Lake	10
Royd Lake	10
Sydney/Kilburn Lake	15
Sylvia Lake	10
Telescope Lake	10
Thicketwood Lake	10

Lakes/systems with private cottages, commercial portage to boat caches or commercial remote fly-in boat caches:	*Horsepower restrictions:*
Adventure Lake	10
Aegean Lake	10
Anchor Lake	10
Beamish Lake	10
Beaver Lake (Central Wilderness Zone)	10
Beaver Lake (Southern Wilderness Zone)	10
Bigshell Lake	10
Bilko Lake	10
Bird River	10
Blueberry Lake	10
Bulging Lake	10
Crazy Lake	10
Crystal Lake (Anchor Lake Park Addition)	10
Donald Lake	10
Dragon Lake	10
Dunstan Lake	10
Echo Lake	10

Edgar Lake	10
Embyro Lake	10
Foley Lake	10
Franks Lake	10
Gammon Lake	10
Glenn Lake	10
Hammerhead Lake	10
Hansen Lake	10
Hatchet Lake	10
Irregular Lake	10
Lac Lamont	10
Linge Lake	10
Little Gammon Lake	10
Marys Lake	25
Middle Kilburn Lake	10
Middle Lake South of Gammon	10
Moose Lake	10
Musclow Lake	10
Old Woman Lake	10
Optic River	10
Page Lake	10
Peterson Lake	10
Pickerel Lake	10
Robertson Lake	10
Rocky Lake	10
Rostoul Lake	10
Royd Lake	10
Sydney/Kilburn Lakes	15
Sylvia Lake	10
Talon Lake	10
Unnamed Lake South Of Gammon Lake	10
Unnamed Lake South of Hammerhead Lake	10
Unnamed Lake West of Telescope Lake	10
Unnamed West of Indian House Lake	10
Upper Gammon Lake	10
Upper Hatchet Lake	10
Veronica Lake	10
Walking Stick Lake	10
Wanda Lake	10
Wrist Lake	10
Young Lake	10

Appendix WCPP-2: Permitted Uses Table Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (P2370e)

Commercial Activities		
Aggregate Extraction	No	
Bait Fishing		
Existing:	Yes	Existing use to be phased out by December 31, 2009. Owners of tourist operations located within wilderness parks are permitted by licence to bait fish in designated water bodies within the park, but only for use in the park.
New:	No	
Commercial Fishing		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Commercial Fur Harvesting		
Existing:	Yes	Existing use to be phased out by December 31, 2009, except for trapping by Status Indians exercising Treaty rights.
New:	No	
Commercial Hydro Development	No	
Commercial Timber Harvest	No	
Facility-based Commercial Tourism (e.g. outpost camps, resorts/lodges)		
Existing:	Yes	Existing authorized tourism facilities/operations and related activities will remain but are subject to considerations.
New:	Maybe	New operations may be considered provided they are consistent with park policy and wilderness objectives.
Backcountry Outfitting Services	Yes	
Energy Transmission and Communications Corridors	No	
Mineral Exploration and Development	No	
Wild Rice Harvesting		
Existing:	Yes	Existing use to be phased out by December 31, 2009, except for harvesting by Status Indians exercising Treaty rights.
New:	No	

Land and Resource Management Activities

Crown Land Disposition		
Private:	No	No new land disposition for the private use of individuals is permitted.
Commercial:	Maybe	Private recreation camps authorized by Land Use Permit for private use will be phased out by December 31, 2009. Land disposition for commercial use may occur under the authority of a land use permit or lease, provided they are consistent with park policy and wilderness objectives.
Fire Suppression	Maybe	Until such time that a fire management plan for the park is approved, fire management within the park will be carried out in accordance with the Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario.
Fish Habitat Management	Maybe	In the absence of a fisheries management plan, management actions (e.g. habitat restoration) may be implemented where need is identified.
Fish Stocking		
Native Species:	Maybe	In the absence of a fisheries management plan, stocking of native fish species may occur where required to supplement threatened native populations.
Non-Native Species:	No	Stocking of any non-native species is prohibited.
Insect and Disease Suppression	Maybe	Non-native infestations which threaten park values will be actioned. Native infestations which threaten park values may be actioned.
Personal Wood Harvesting	No	Only dead material may be used for firewood.
Inventory and Monitoring	Yes	
Prescribed Burning	Maybe	Until such time that a fire management plan for the park is approved, fire management within the park will be carried out in accordance with the Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario.
Roads		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Vegetation Management	Maybe	In the absence of a vegetation management plan, management actions may be implemented where need is identified. Non-native infestations which threaten park values will be actioned.
Water Control Structure		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	

Wildlife Population Management	Maybe	Wildlife management will be addressed in conjunction with MNR wildlife management objectives.
Science, Education and Heritage Appreciation		
Historical Appreciation (self guided)	Yes	Support facilities may be identified through Natural Heritage Education planning.
Nature Appreciation (self guided)	Yes	Support facilities may be identified through Natural Heritage Education planning.
Photography and Painting	Yes	
Research	Yes	Subject to authorization.
Wildlife Viewing (self-guided)	Yes	Support facilities may be identified through Natural Heritage Education planning.
Recreation Activities and Facilities		
Aircraft Landing		
Private:	Yes	Aircraft landing is permitted with the authorization of a valid aircraft landing authority. Private aircraft landing will be phased out over four years following approval of the Park Management Plan, except for landings in designated air access zones and for access to private property by the patent land owner and immediate family. Resource harvesters will be permitted to use private aircraft for the purpose of resource harvesting.
Commercial:	Yes	Commercial aircraft landing is permitted in designated air access zones, at commercial tourism facilities, at private property, and at approved remote boat cache locations.
All Terrain Vehicle Use		
On Trails:	Yes	All terrain vehicle use is permitted in association with commercial tourism operations, restricted to the tenured boundary of the operation.
Off Trails:	No	
Camping	Yes	In the absence of a visitor management program, backcountry camping is permitted in wilderness zones on authorized campsites.
Hunting	No	

Motor Boat Use		
Private:	No	Private motorboat use is not permitted except for owners of patent land on designated lakes (non-conforming use). Horsepower restrictions will apply.
Commercial:	Yes	Use associated with commercial tourism operations is permitted within wilderness and access zones. Horsepower restrictions will apply.
Non-motorized Recreation Travel (e.g. canoeing, kayaking, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing)	Yes	
Private Recreation Camps		
Existing:	Yes	Existing use to be phased out by December 31, 2009.
New:	No	
Snowmobiling		
On Trails:	No	Snowmobile use will be phased out over ten years following approval of the Park Management Plan.
Off Trails:	No	
Sport Fishing	Yes	Consult the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations summary for specific local details.
Trail Development	Maybe	If there is increased interest, hiking trails may be considered where compatible with wilderness values and in association with the Natural Heritage Education plan.

Appendix WCPP-3: Permitted Uses Table – Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Additions (P2370)

Commercial Activities		
Aggregate Extraction	No	
Bait Fishing		
Existing:	Yes	
New:	No	
Commercial Fishing		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Commercial Fur Harvesting		
Existing:	Yes	
New:	No	
Commercial Hydro Development	No	
Commercial Timber Harvest	No	
Facility-based Commercial Tourism (e.g. outpost camps, resorts/lodges)		
Existing:	Yes	Existing authorized tourism facilities/operations and related activities will remain but are subject to considerations.
New:	Maybe	New operations may be considered provided they are consistent with park policy and wilderness objectives.
Backcountry Outfitting Services	Yes	
Energy Transmission and Communications Corridors	No	
Mineral Exploration and Development	No	

Wild Rice Harvesting		
Existing:	Yes	
New:	No	

Land and Resource Management Activities

Crown Land Disposition		
Private:	No	No new land disposition for the private use of individuals is permitted, except for minor dispositions in support of existing uses (e.g. reconstruction of a septic system). Renewal of existing tenure for authorized uses is permitted.
Commercial:	Maybe	Land disposition for commercial use may occur under the authority of a land use permit or lease, provided they are consistent with park policy and wilderness objectives. Existing tourism facilities may be eligible for enhanced tenure.
Fire Suppression	Maybe	Until such time that a fire management plan for the park is approved, fire management within the park will be carried out in accordance with the *Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario*.
Fish Habitat Management	Maybe	In the absence of a fisheries management plan, management actions (e.g. habitat restoration) may be implemented where need is identified.
Fish Stocking		
Native Species:	Maybe	In the absence of a fisheries management plan, stocking of native fish species may occur where required to supplement threatened native populations.
Non-Native Species:	No	Stocking of any non-native species is prohibited.
Insect and Disease Suppression	Maybe	Non-native infestations which threaten park values will be actioned. Native infestations which threaten park values may be actioned.
Inventory and Monitoring	Yes	
Personal Wood Harvesting	No	Only dead material may be used for firewood.

Prescribed Burning	Maybe	Until such time that a fire management plan for the park is approved, fire management within the park will be carried out in accordance with the Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario.
Roads		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Vegetation Management	Maybe	In the absence of a vegetation management plan, management actions may be implemented where need is identified. Non-native infestations which threaten park values will be actioned.
Water Control Structure		
Existing:	No	
New:	No	
Wildlife Population Management	Maybe	Wildlife management will be addressed in conjunction with MNR wildlife management objectives.
Science, Education and Heritage Appreciation		
Historical Appreciation (self guided)	Yes	Support facilities may be identified through Natural Heritage Education planning.
Nature Appreciation (self guided)	Yes	Support facilities may be identified through Natural Heritage Education planning.
Photography and Painting	Yes	
Research	Yes	Subject to authorization.
Wildlife Viewing (self-guided)	Yes	Support facilities may be identified through Natural Heritage Education planning.

Recreation Activities and Facilities		
Aircraft Landing		
Private:	Yes	Aircraft landing is permitted with the authorization of a valid aircraft landing authority. Private aircraft landing will be phased out over four years following approval of the Park Management Plan, except for landings in designated air access zones (year-round and seasonal) and for access to private property by the patent land owner and immediate family. Resource harvesters will be permitted to use private aircraft for the purpose of resource harvesting.
Commercial:	Yes	Commercial aircraft landing is permitted in designated air access zones, at commercial tourism facilities, at private property, and at approved remote boat cache locations.
All Terrain Vehicle Use		
On Trails:	Yes	All terrain vehicle use is permitted in association with commercial tourism operations, restricted to the tenured boundary of the operation.
Off Trails:	No	
Camping	Yes	In the absence of a visitor management program, backcountry camping is permitted in wilderness zones on authorized campsites.
Hunting	Yes	Not in nature reserve zones.
Motor Boat Use		
Private:	No	Private motorboat use is not permitted except for owners of patent land on designated lakes (non-conforming use). Horsepower restrictions will apply.
Commercial:	Yes	Use associated with commercial tourism operations is permitted within wilderness and access zones. Horsepower restrictions will apply.
Non-motorized Recreation Travel (e.g. canoeing, kayaking, hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing)	Yes	

Private Recreation Camps *(e.g. hunt camps)*		
Existing:	Yes	Existing authorized camps are permitted to continue, and are eligible for enhanced tenure but not purchase of land.
New:	No	
Snowmobiling		
On Trails:	Yes	Snowmobile use on authorized trails can continue through seasonal access zoning.
Off Trails:	No	
Sport Fishing	Yes	Consult the Ontario Recreational Fishing Regulations summary for specific local details.
Trail Development	Maybe	If there is increased interest, hiking trails may be considered where compatible with wilderness values and in association with the Natural Heritage Education plan.

Appendix WCPP-4: Social and Economic Impacts

Data from case studies, literature reviews, and interviews with tourism based businesses all confirm that there are significant socio-economic benefits from protected areas that transfer to local communities and businesses.

Ontario's system of protected areas (provincial parks and conservation reserves) includes more than 9.5 million hectares of the province's most outstanding landscapes and waterways. This network of protected areas is considered to be globally outstanding. Increasingly, entrepreneurs and community leaders in Ontario are recognizing the economic opportunities through tourism associated with this resource base.

A study entitled, "Ontario Resource-Based Tourism Diversification Opportunities Report" was completed by Economic Growth Solutions Inc. in December of 2002 for the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM). The purpose of the study was to identify alternative resource-based tourism product development opportunities beyond the traditional fishing and hunting markets.

> The report authors noted that: "Fishing and hunting have been highly successful flagship products for Ontario's resource-based tourism sector. However, there is considerable potential to diversify into non-consumptive resource-based tourism market segments, many of which have higher participation levels than fishing and hunting." (p. xiv)

The study included a survey of tourism operators and noted a significant percentage of operators were very interested in more eco-tourism and adventure travel[2] options including: wildlife/bird watching/photography, canoe outfitting/kayaking, and backpacking/hiking/trekking/walking tours. The study went on to note that:

> "Ontario is already nationally and internationally significant in terms of the fishing and hunting product offered by the resource-based tourism operators. It has a relatively low profile, however, on the national and international stage with respect to other outdoor adventure products, nature tourism, and eco-tourism – yet, the potential is enormous." (p. 1-5)

Key opportunities for northern Ontario resource-based tourism identified by the MNDM study include: further development of cultural and heritage resources; conferences and retreats utilizing shoulder seasons; spa facilities/retreats; creating outdoor adventure, learning vacations, and nature-based interpretive experiences; establishing links with educational institutions offering relevant courses; and the broadening and deepening of partnerships.

While useful for parks managers, outfitters, tourist operators, and local economic development officials this study did not identify specific areas of the province that offer significant potential for resource-based tourism diversification. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park as well as other notable parks, signature sites, and protected areas in the province (e.g. Algonquin, Quetico, Lady-Evelyn Smoothwater, Wabakimi, etc) should be considered as cornerstones of regionally resource-based tourism diversification opportunities.

2. Eco-tourism is defined as "purposeful travel that creates an understanding of cultural and natural history, while safeguarding economic benefits that encourage preservation". Ecotourism implies a scientific, aesthetic, or philosophical approach with a high level of interpretation. Adventure travel may be defined as leisure activity that takes place in an unusual, exotic, remote or wilderness destination and tends to be associated with high levels of activity by the participants, and most of it outdoors. Adventure travelers expect to experience varying degrees of risk, excitement and tranquility and to be personally tested or stretched in some way. (Economic Growth Solutions, 2002).

Ontario's protected areas, and in particular the OLL signature sites, possess the following strengths:

- World-class canoeing and camping opportunities in many protected areas and across the Canadian Shield.
- World-class freshwater kayaking opportunities concentrated along key sections of the Great Lakes Heritage Coast and Lake Nipigon,
- World-class freshwater fishing (facility-based tourism),which has been known and developed for many decades.
- Significant landscapes and natural resources which can and have the potential to attract a wide variety of market segments (e.g. eco-tourism, adventure travel, cultural heritage tourism, etc).
- Potential for Aboriginal tourism in association with the natural heritage of these areas.

Many of the large protected areas in the province are located considerable distances from urban markets. Economic opportunities associated with these protected areas may be restricted to summer and perhaps limited shoulder seasons, however, there is an opportunity to market the experience to a more concentrated but higher-paying consumer. This may produce as many economic benefits as catering to a large volume of visitors.

Provincial parks and protected areas provide a wide range of benefits to local and regional communities, the province, and society in general. Some of the benefits may be measured in economic terms and others cannot. A number of the important benefits are listed below, though this list is by no means exhaustive. These benefits demonstrate how parks and protected areas supports our quality of life:

- Protection and contribution to ecological functions (e.g. water and soil production).
- Protection of resource integrity (representing some of the last green spaces left in the province).
- Health benefits from outdoor activities (mental, physical, and spiritual well-being).
- Worker productivity (healthy and happy workers tend to be more productive with less absenteeism).
- Educational benefits (learning and connecting with our natural and cultural heritage).
- Scientific benefits (research to create better understanding and awareness).
- International responsibilities to protect natural settings, features and wildlife.
- Business location decisions (quality of life/business) and community cohesion.
- Economic benefits, both direct and indirect.

Provincial park trends across Ontario have shown an increase of 33% in backcountry use (interior camper nights) between 1988 and 2000. Woodland Caribou Provincial Park has also experienced this trend as camper nights over the same time period increased from 606 in 1988 to 6,293 in 2000. Average annual camper nights between 1993 and 2000 were 3,923. Camper nights between 2001 and 2004 have averaged 4,997 per year. In 2005, Woodland Caribou Provincial Park's visitation was 4,647 camper nights. A number of factors have contributed to this general trend of increasing park use: greater awareness of the park; marketing efforts of the park, the local publicity board, and the tourism operators; other regional parks becoming more heavily used; increased quality of outfitting services; word of mouth; and the overall increasing demand for outdoor recreation in Ontario. As a result Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, along with local and regional communities, is well positioned to benefit from these market trends.

Information from nine facility-based tourism operators in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park show a gross revenue of $4.1 million generated from activities directly within the park. The total market value of these businesses (including capital assets) is estimated at $24 million. They employ over 80 people with an annual payroll of over two million dollars. These businesses attract over 3,100 visits annually for a total of 17,980 rental nights (pers. comm. F. Bastone MNDM, 2004).

There are five backcountry outfitters providing various tourism services that range from full service guided trips to equipment rental, trip advice, or shuttle service. Backcountry clientele using outfitting services has increased and can be illustrated by the increase in paddlers using commercial aircraft as a means of accessing the park interior (13% in 2003 to 25% in 2004).

Appendix WCPP-5: Summary of Public Consultation

The planning for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park began in April of 2002 with the release of the Terms of Reference for the Woodland Caribou Signature Site. The Terms of Reference outlined the scope and structure of the planning process, the project team (Steering Committee, Project Planning Team and Advisory Committee), their responsibilities, and the planning schedule. In December of 2002, an Invitation to Participate was released. This publication encouraged individuals and groups to come forward with knowledge and opinions concerning the signature site.

In the spring of 2003, a newsletter was released which presented general information regarding the signature site and once again invited the public to be part of the planning process. In January of 2004, the Background Information document was released for public review and comment. This stage of the planning process involves the inventory and analysis of resource data. Information centres (open houses) were held in Red Lake, Ear Falls and Kenora as well as the Ontario First Nation communities of Pikangikum, Grassy Narrows, Lac Seul and Wabaseemoong. A summary of the public consultation was prepared and contributed to the development of a list of issues which were brought forward for comment in the next stage of the planning process, the Issues and Options.

The Issues and Options document was released in May of 2005. This stage of the planning process presented issues identified by the Project Planning Team, Advisory Committee and the public along with plan alternatives which conform with policy direction for wilderness class parks, conservation reserves, and enhanced management areas. Information centres were again held in Red Lake, Ear Falls and Kenora as well as in the First Nation communities of Pikangikum, Grassy Narrows, Lac Seul, Wabaseemoong and Little Grand Rapids, Manitoba.

A detailed questionnaire was provided in the Issues and Options document. The questionnaire presented plan alternatives which were developed to comply with policy yet satisfy divergent interests. Preferred alternatives were not identified nor was an exhaustive list provided. The alternatives that were suggested reflected public participation, consultation with the Advisory Committee and First Nations Working group, and deliberation of the Project Planning Team.

Following the release of the Issues and Options, public comments were received over a 45-day consultation period. Comments were received in the form of letters, questionnaires, e-mails, faxes, as well as through personal communications via meetings, telephone calls, and walk-ins. A summary of the public response was prepared and available for public review. Opinions and information generated from public consultation was reviewed by the Advisory Committee and the Project Planning Team and used to develop strategies for resolving issues presented in the Issues and Options.

Not all issues/alternatives presented in the Issues and Options were addressed or acted upon in this document. In some cases, there is a low risk to the resource (e.g. primitive weapons only hunting in the recommended park additions), the issue may be addressed during subsequent implementation planning (e.g. using vegetation management to approximate natural disturbance), or there may be other priorities and the issue will be re-visited as the need arises and resources permit (e.g. communication towers).

The Preliminary Strategy incorporates public comments, recommendations from the Advisory Committee and First Nations Working Group, and decisions by the Project Planning Team into a preferred management approach for the signature site, including a Preliminary Park Management Plan for Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. Comments received throughout the entire planning process were considered during the completion of this document. The Preliminary Strategy provides another opportunity for comment and review through public consultation. Over a 45–day period, all interested participants will have an opportunity to determine if their concerns have been addressed and to make their opinions known. Following public consulta-

Following public consultation, the Preliminary Strategy will be amended where necessary and released to the public as the Approved Woodland Caribou Signature Site Strategy, which will include an Approved Park Management Plan.

All public input will be treated in accordance with the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to ensure confidentiality of personal information.

Ontario Parks will retain on file reference copies of all planning documents. Planning documents are also available electronically at:
http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/planning_wood.html.

Figure 1: Signature Site Reference Map

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

N

Manitoba

Atikaki Provincial Park

South Atikaki Provincial Park

Anchor Lake Proposed Park Addition

Peisk/Lund Lake Proposed Park Addition

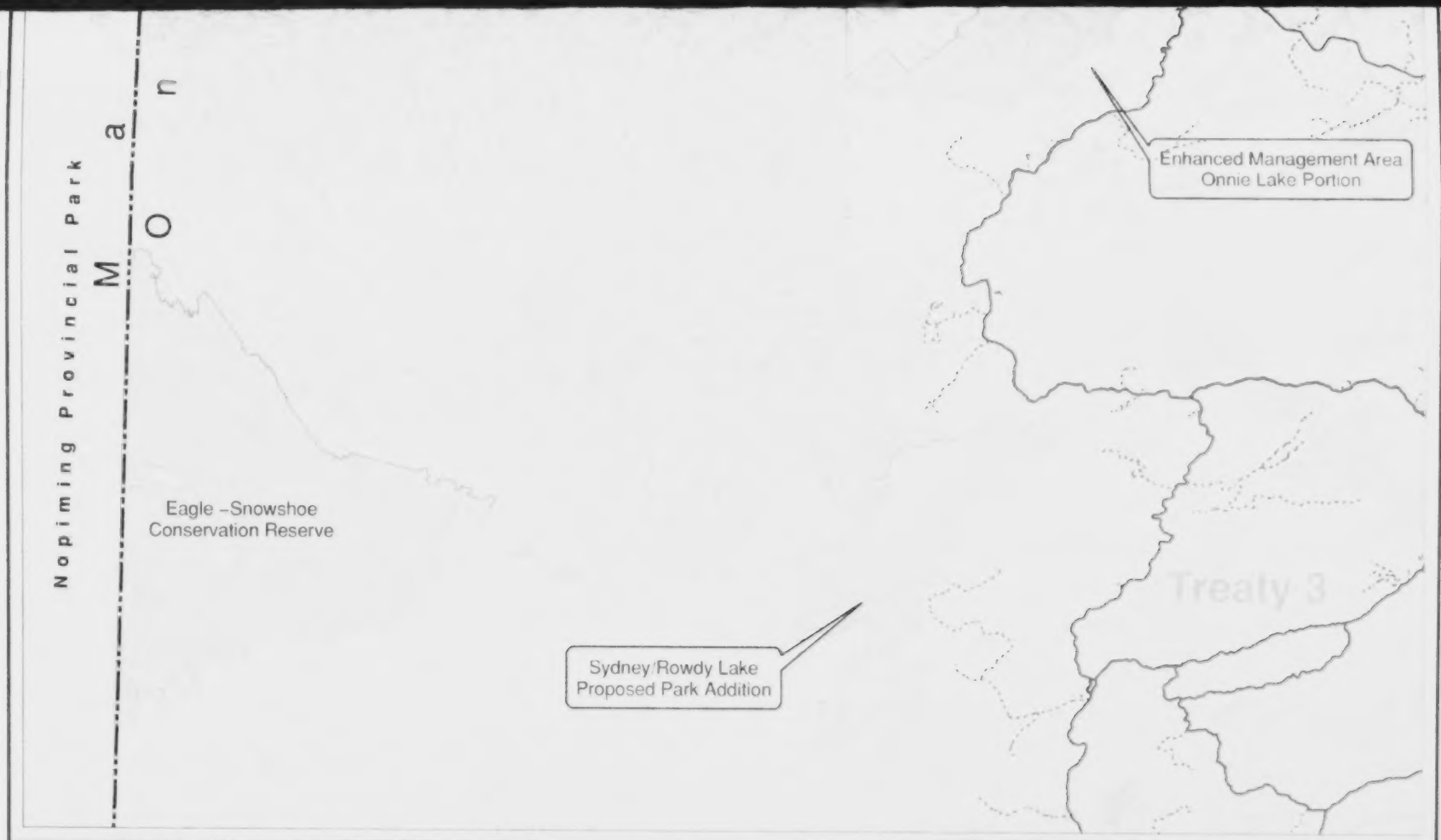
Pipestone Bay / McIntosh Enhanced Management Area

Woodland Caribou Forest Reserve

Douglas Foley Lake Proposed Park Addition

Enhanced Management Area Onnie Lake Portion

Treaty 5



SIGNATURE SITE REFERENCE MAP

Woodland Caribou Signature Site

0 5 10 20 Km

Scale: 1:350,000

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This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation.

Projection: UTM Grid Zone 15
Datum: North American Datum 1983
Base Derived From: NRVIS (Natural Resource Values Information System)
Produced by: Red Lake District - KMM

Ontario

Ontario Parks

Base Features

- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Provincial Boundary
- Treaty Boundary
- River / Stream
- Lake
- Provincial Park
- Proposed Park Additions
- Enhanced Management Area
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Reserve
- Manitoba Parks

Figure 2: Zoning

ZONING

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

0 5 10 20 Km

Scale: 1:350,000

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Projection: UTM Grid Zone 15
Datum: North American Datum 1983
Base Derived From: NRVIS (Natural Resource Values Information System)
Produced by: Red Lake District - RMM

Ontario

Ontario Parks

Base Features

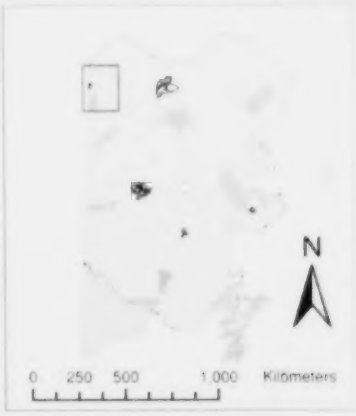
- Provincial Boundary
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- River - Stream
- Lake
- Manitoba Parks
- Forest Reserve
- Conservation Reserve
- Enhanced Management Area

Zoning

- Northern, Central & Southern Wilderness
- Bloodvein Gammon Wilderness
- Nature Reserves (By Area)
- Nature Reserves (By Point)
- Access Zones (By Area)
- Access Zones (By Point)

Figure 3: Nature Reserves and Access Zoning (NRL 41)

NATURE RESERVES AND ACCESS ZONING (NR1, A1)



Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

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Ontario

Ontario Parks

Base Features

- Provincial Boundary
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Tertiary Road
- River / Stream
- Lake
- Manitoba Parks
- Enhanced Management Area
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Reserve

Zoning

- Northern, Central, Southern Wilderness
- Bloodvein Gammon Wilderness
- Nature Reserves
- Year Round Air Access
- Year Round Road Access
- Year Round Water Access
- Seasonal Air Access
- Seasonal Air/Snowmobile Access
- Seasonal Snowmobile Corridor

Figure 4: Nature Reserves and Access Zoning (NR2, NR3)

NATURE RESERVES AND ACCESS ZONING (NR2,NR3)

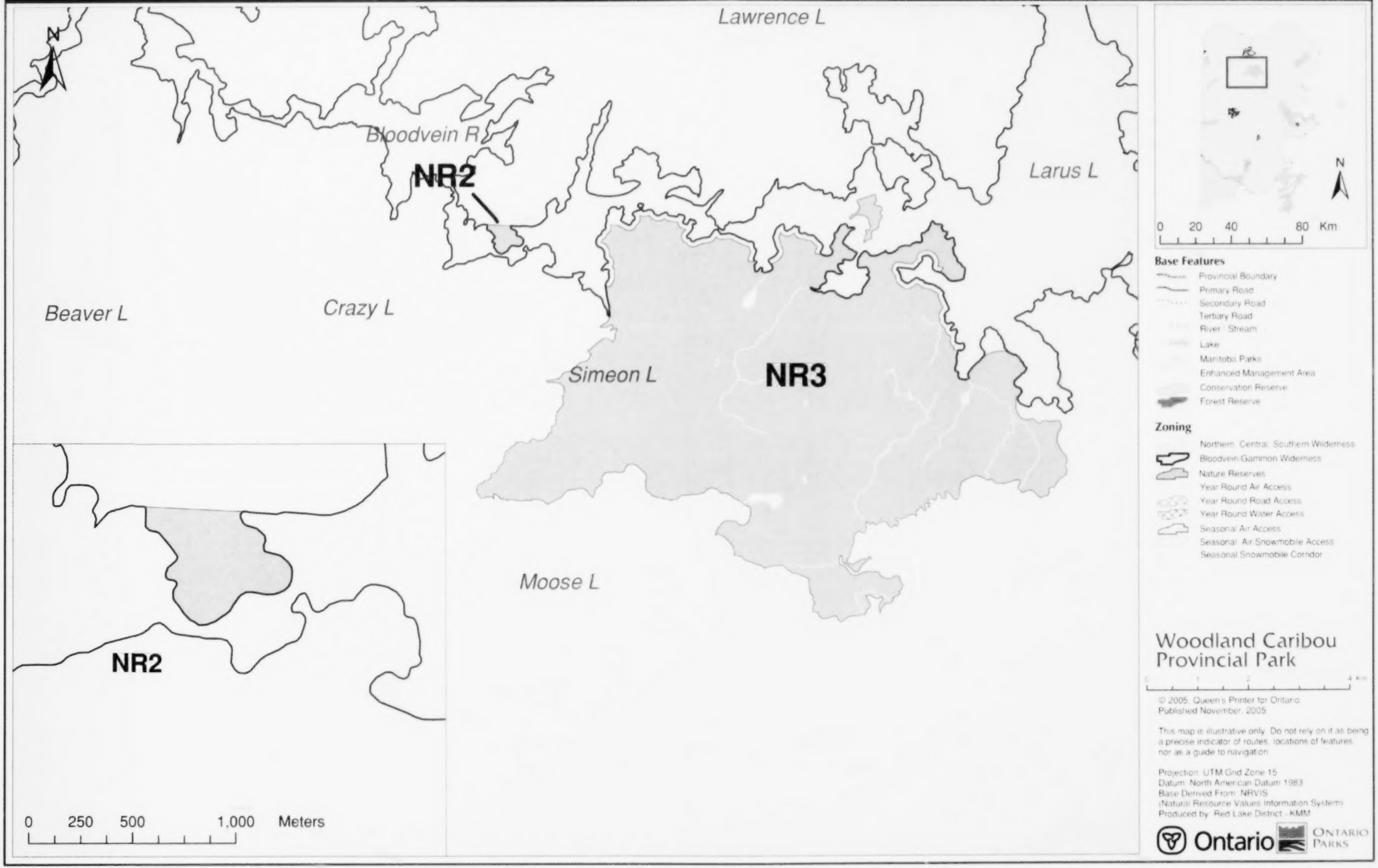
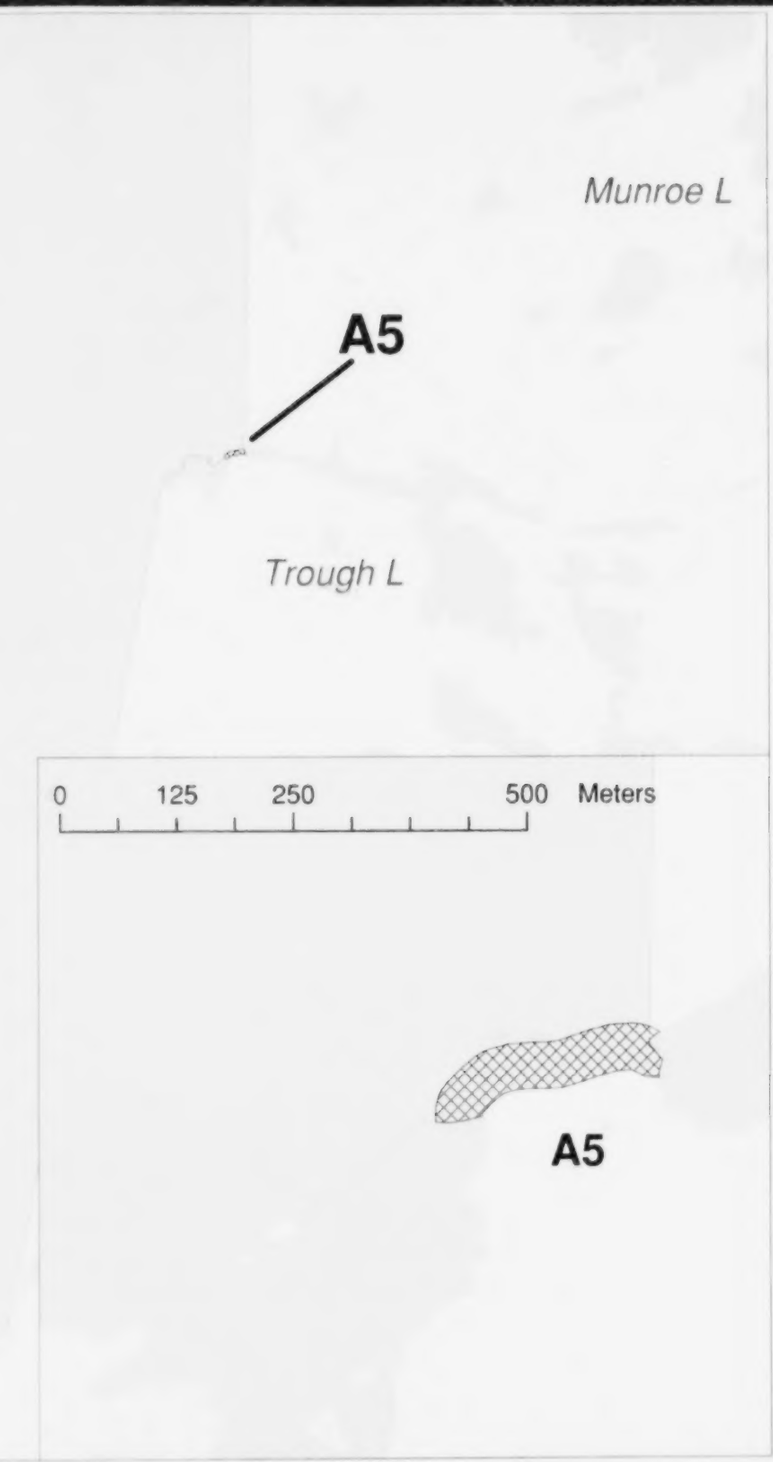
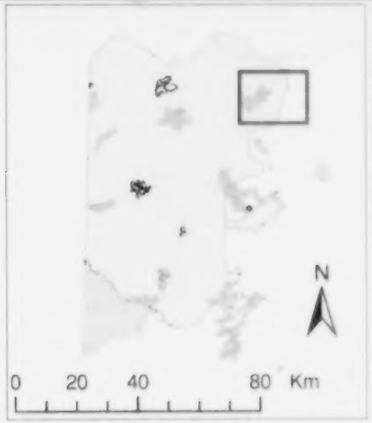


Figure 5: Nature Reserves and Access Zoning (NR4, A5)

NATURE RESERVES AND ACCESS ZONING (NR4,A5)





Base Features

- Provincial Boundary
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Tertiary Road
- River \ Stream
- Lake
- Manitoba Parks
- Enhanced Management Area
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Reserve

Zoning

- Northern, Central, Southern Wilderness
- Bloodvein/Gammon Wilderness
- Nature Reserves
- Year Round Air Access
- Year Round Road Access
- Year Round Water Access
- Seasonal Air Access
- Seasonal Air/Snowmobile Access
- Seasonal Snowmobile Corridor

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

0 1 2 4 Km

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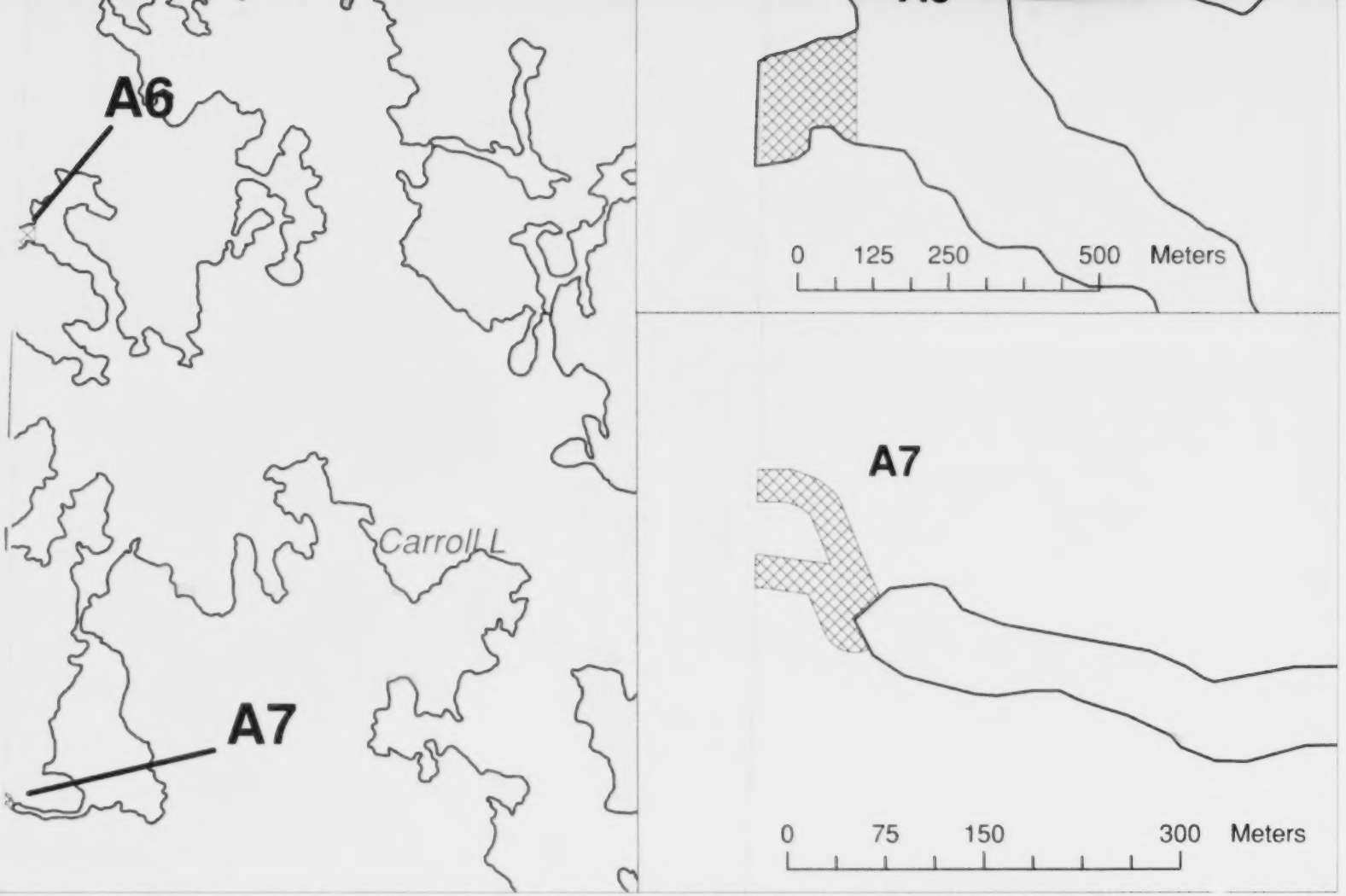
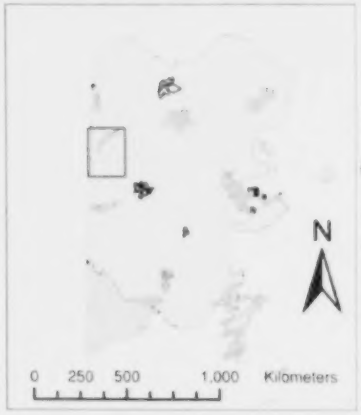
Figure 6: Nature Reserves and Access Zoning (NR5, A6, A7)



NATURE RESERVES AND ACCESS ZONING (NR5,A6,A7)



Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

0 0.5 1 2 Km

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Ontario

Ontario Parks

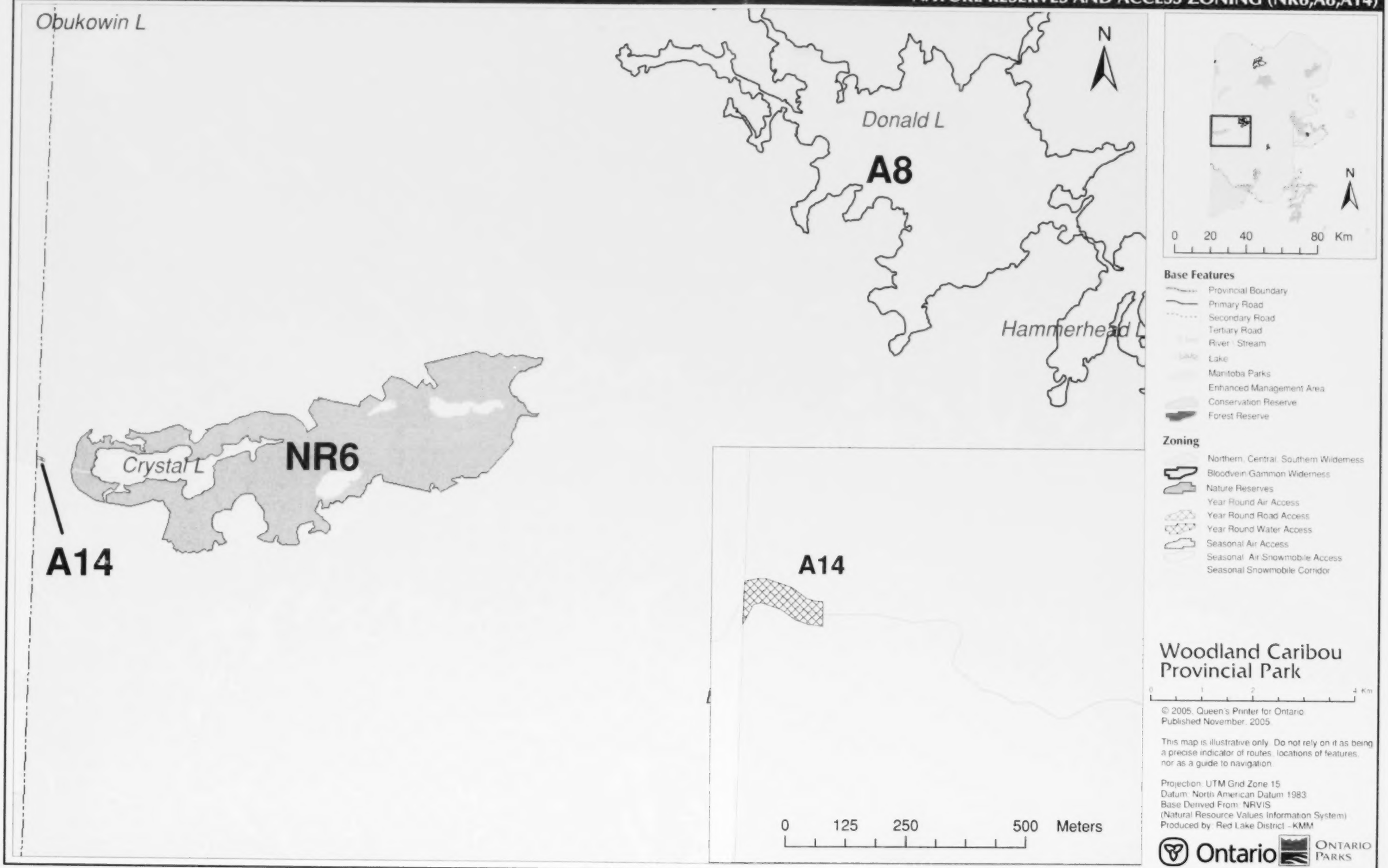
Base Features

- Provincial Boundary
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Tertiary Road
- River \ Stream
- Lake
- Manitoba Parks
- Enhanced Management Area
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Reserve

Zoning

- Northern, Central, Southern Wilderness
- Bloodvein/Gammon Wilderness
- Nature Reserves
- Year Round Air Access
- Year Round Road Access
- Year Round Water Access
- Seasonal Air Access
- Seasonal Air/Snowmobile Access
- Seasonal Snowmobile Corridor

Figure 7: Nature Reserves and Access Zoning (NR6, A8, A14)



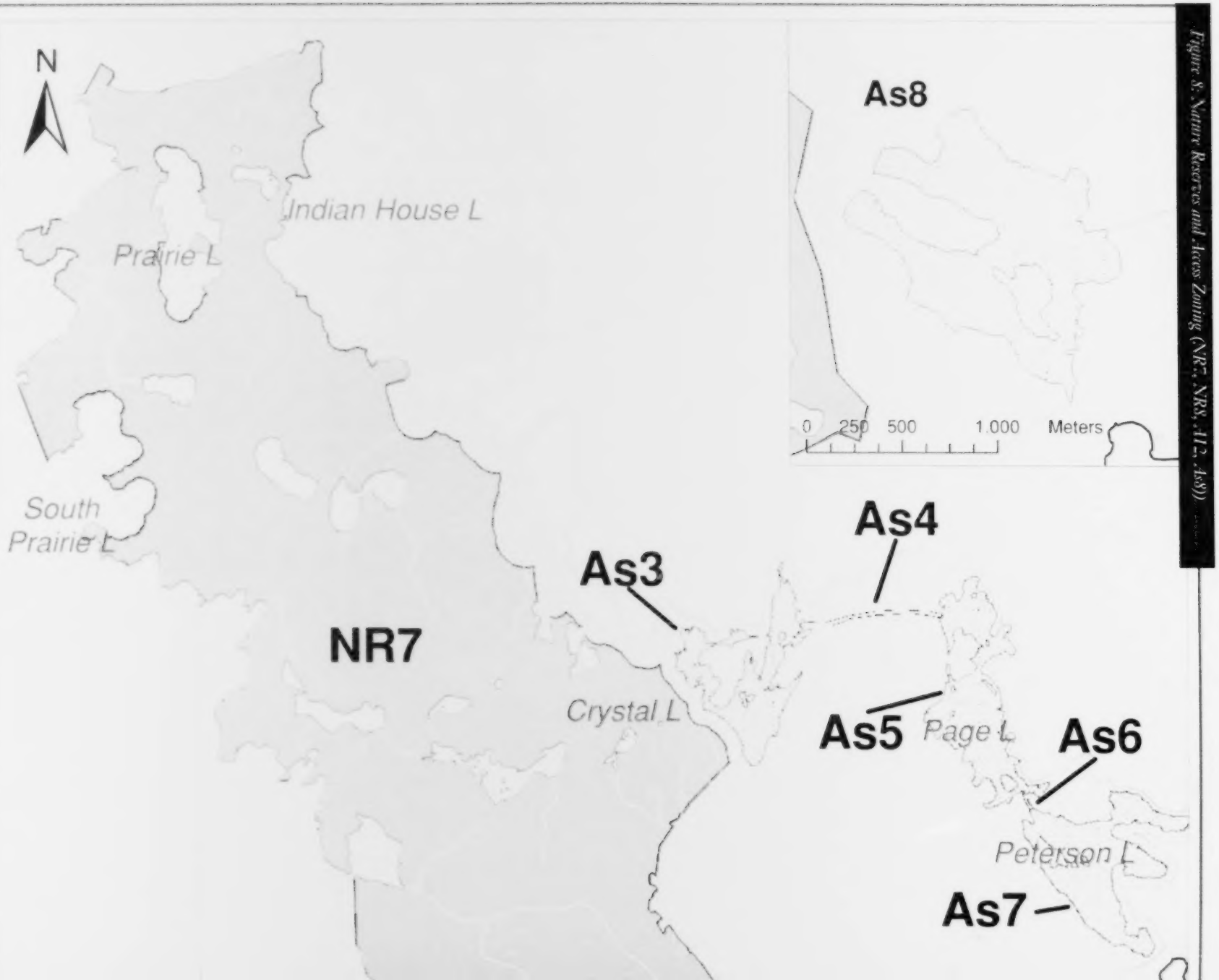
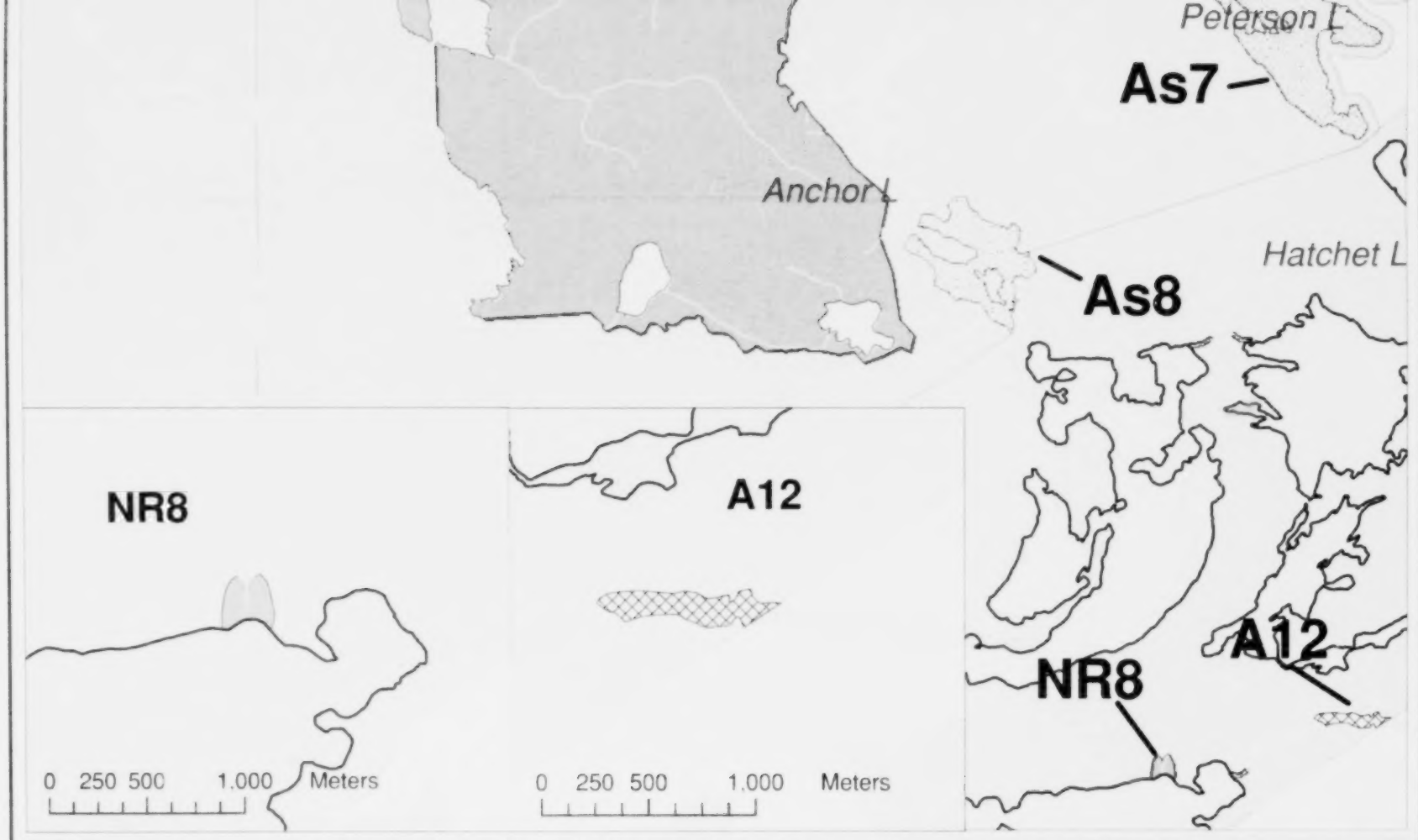
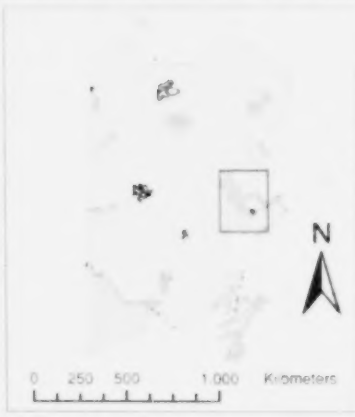


Figure 8: Nature Reserves and Access Zoning (NR7, NR8, AS2, AS8)



NATURE RESERVES AND ACCESS ZONING (NR7, NR8, A12, As8)



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Ontario

Ontario Parks

Base Features

- Provincial Boundary
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Tertiary Road
- River / Stream
- Lake
- Manitoba Parks
- Enhanced Management Area
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Reserve

Zoning

- Northern, Central, Southern Wilderness
- Bloodvein Gammon Wilderness
- Nature Reserves
- Year Round Air Access
- Year Round Road Access
- Year Round Water Access
- Seasonal Air Access
- Seasonal Air Snowmobile Access
- Seasonal Snowmobile Corridor

Figure 9: Nature Reserves and Access Zoning (NR9, A15)

NATURE RESERVES AND ACCESS ZONING (NR9,A15)

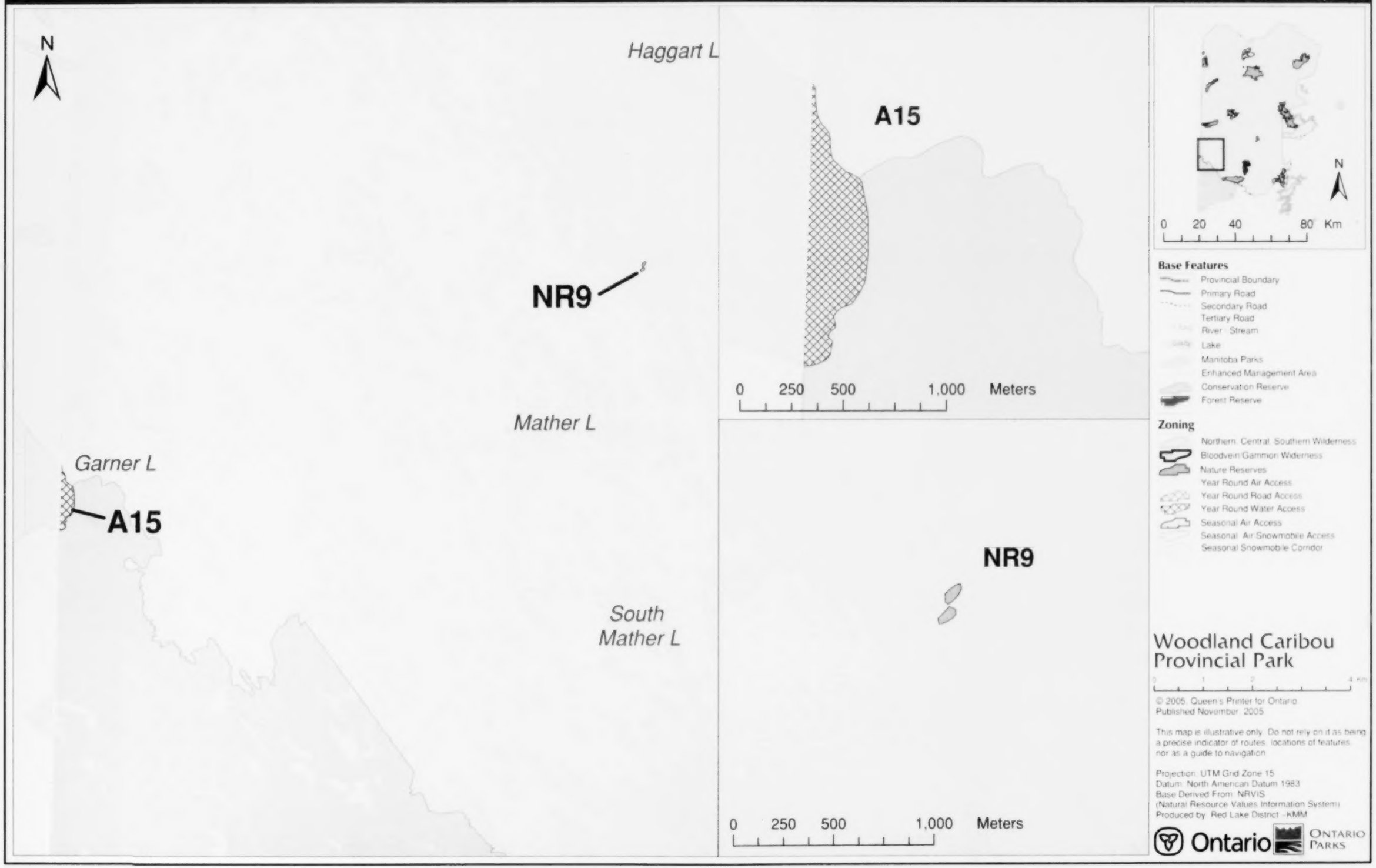

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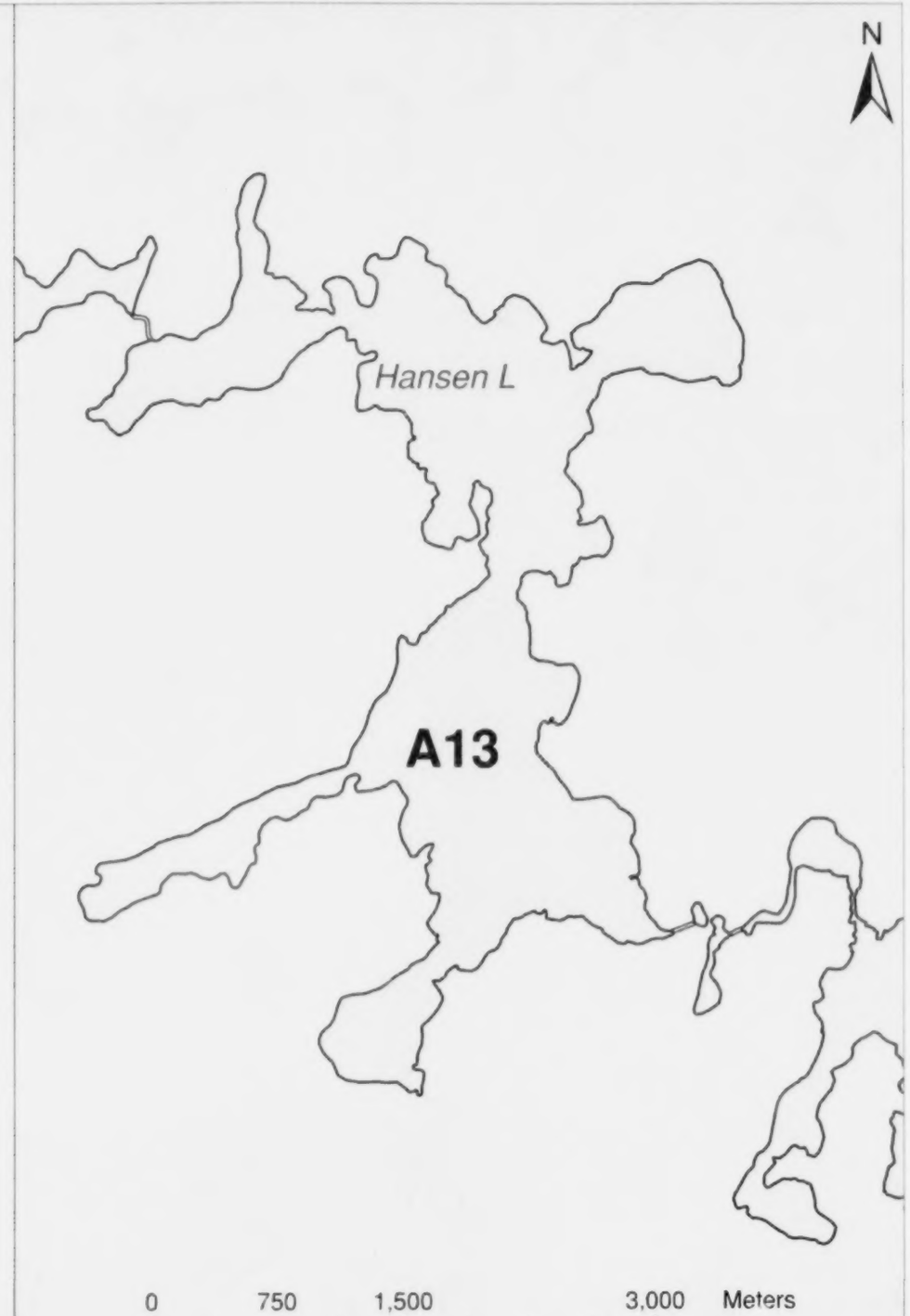
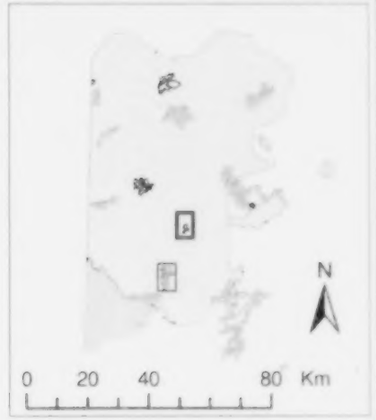
Figure 10: Nature Reserves and Access Zoning (NR10, A13)

NATURE RESERVES AND ACCESS ZONING (NR10,A13)





Base Features

- Provincial Boundary
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Tertiary Road
- River · Stream
- Lake
- Manitoba Parks
- Enhanced Management Area
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Reserve

Zoning

- Northern, Central, Southern Wilderness
- Bloodvein/Gammon Wilderness
- Nature Reserves
- Year Round Air Access
- Year Round Road Access
- Year Round Water Access
- Seasonal Air Access
- Seasonal Air-Snowmobile Access
- Seasonal Snowmobile Corridor

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

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Figure 11: Nature Reserves and Access Zoning (NR11, A16, A17, A18)

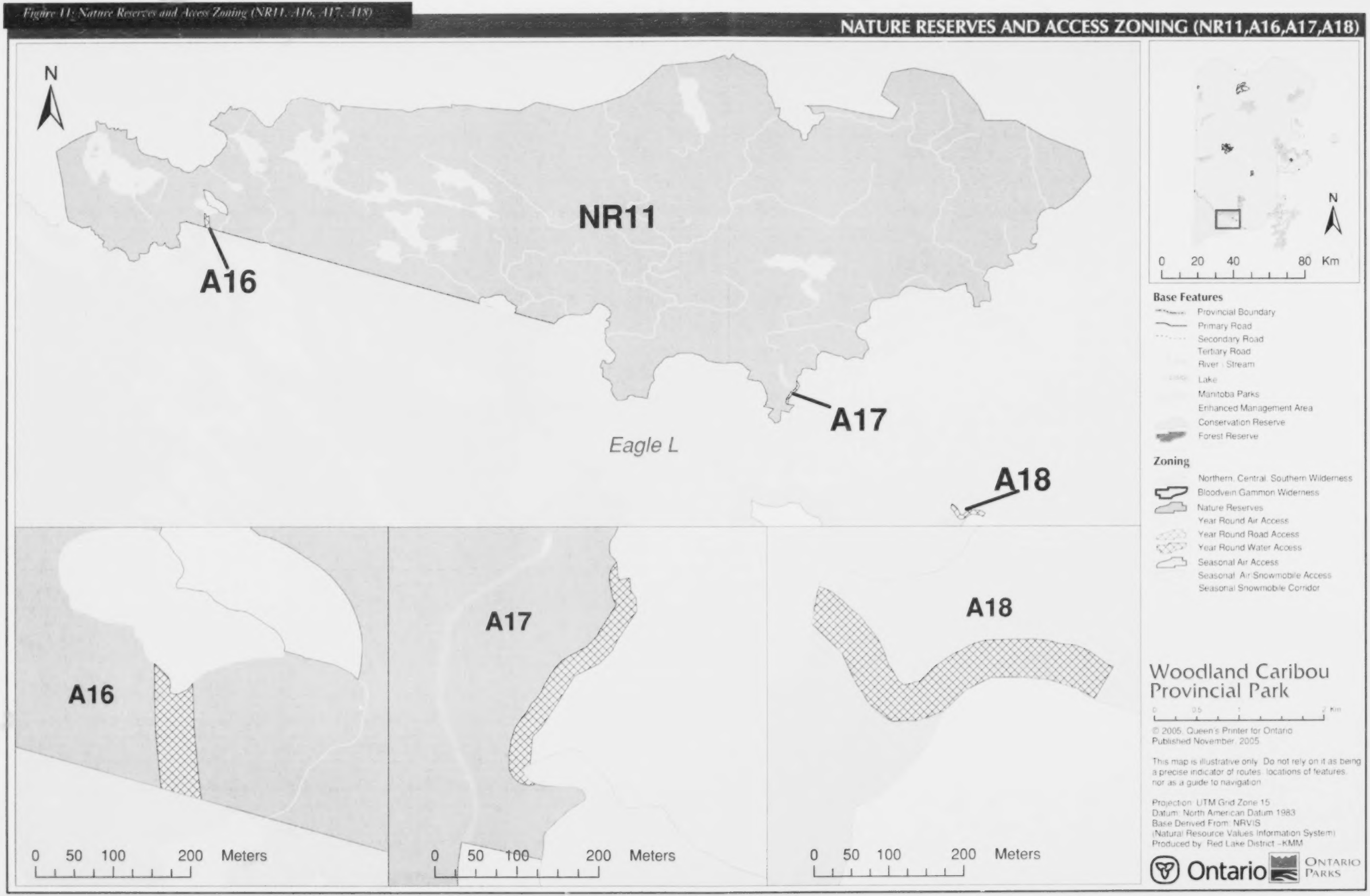
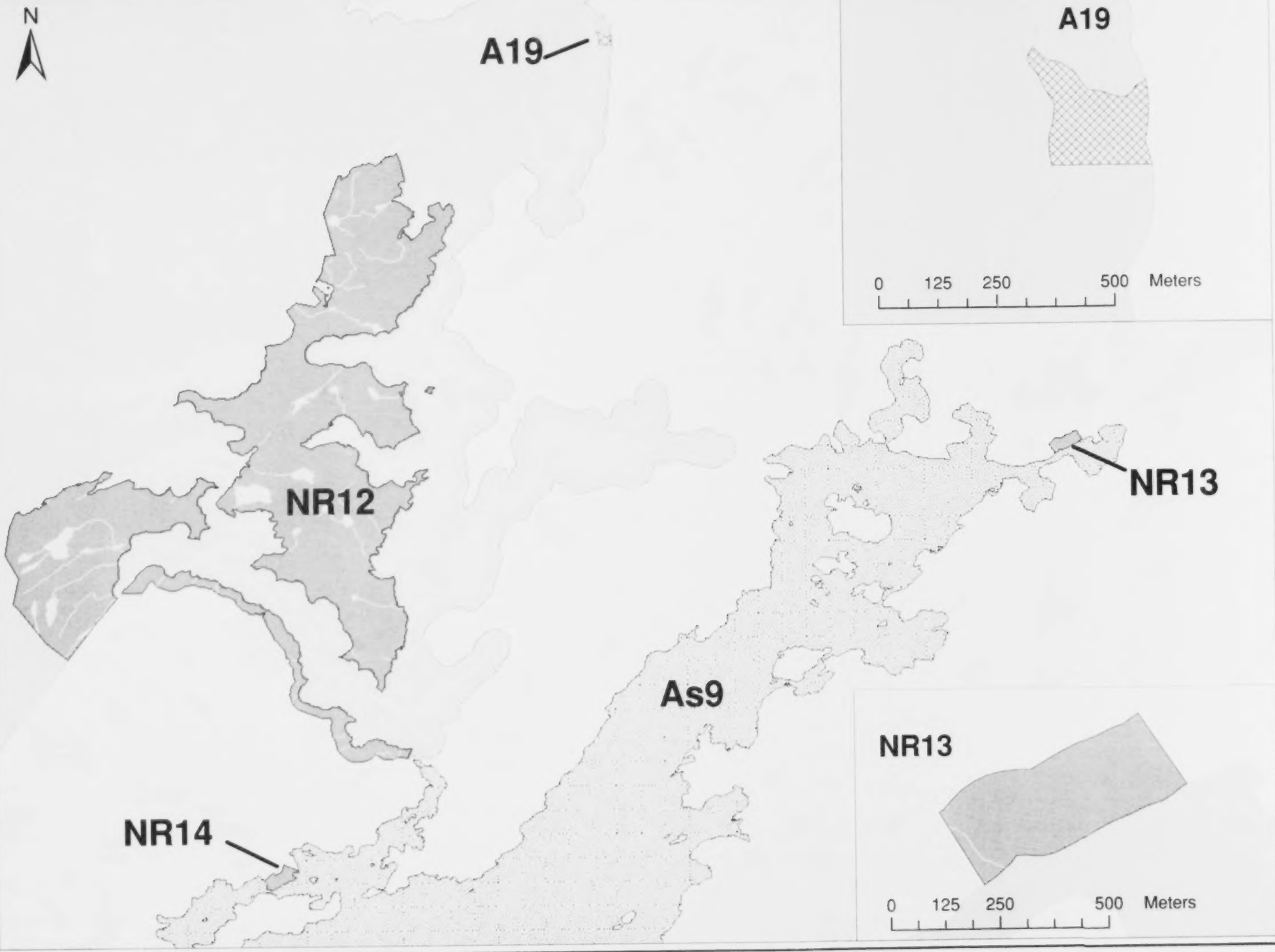
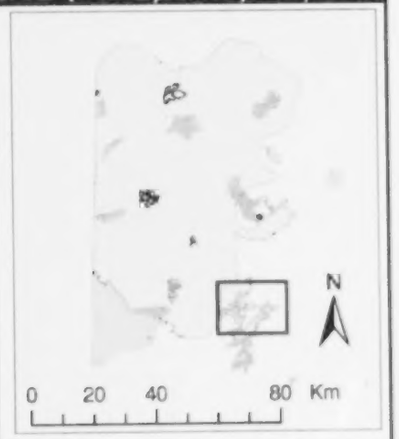


Figure 12: Nature Reserves and Access Zoning (NR12, NR13, A19,As9)

NATURE RESERVES AND ACCESS ZONING (NR12,NR13,A19,As9)





Base Features

- Provincial Boundary
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Tertiary Road
- River : Stream
- Lake
- Manitoba Parks
- Enhanced Management Area
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Reserve

Zoning

- Northern, Central, Southern Wilderness
- Bloodvein Gammon Wilderness
- Nature Reserves
- Year Round Air Access
- Year Round Road Access
- Year Round Water Access
- Seasonal Air Access
- Seasonal Air Snowmobile Access
- Seasonal Snowmobile Corridor

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

0 0.5 1 2 Km

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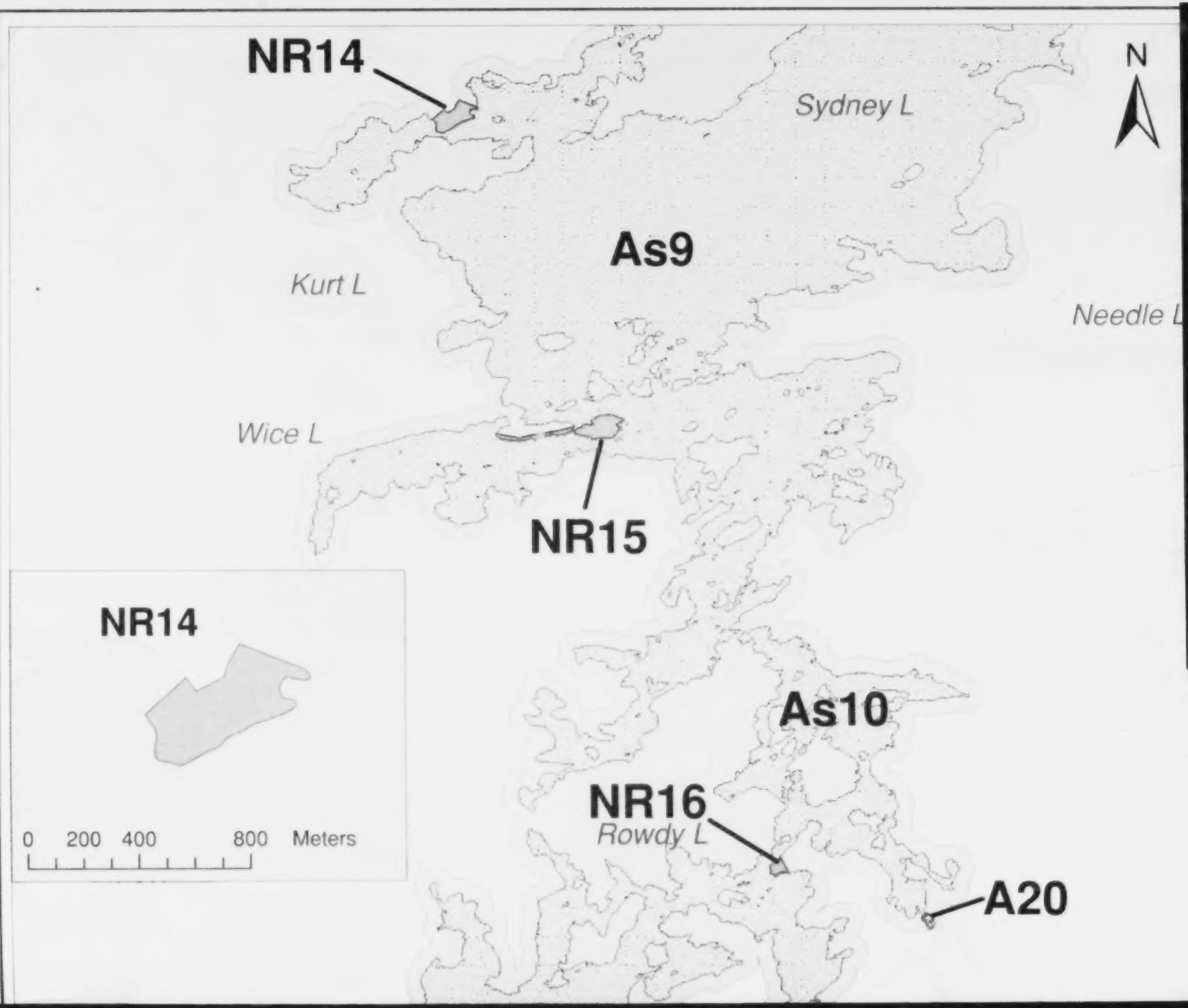
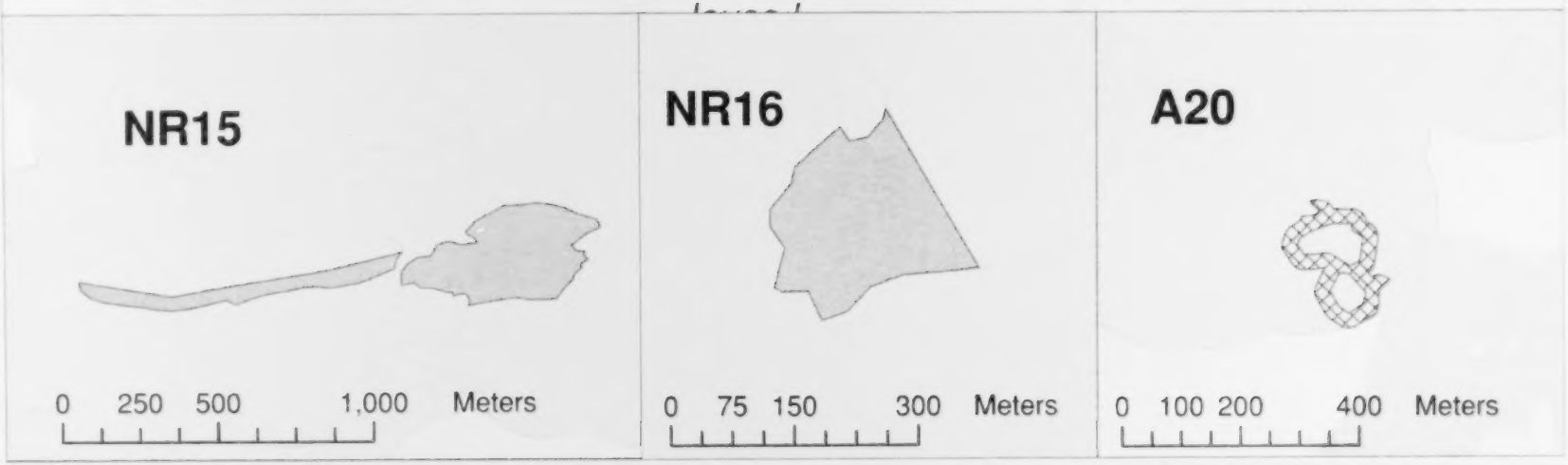
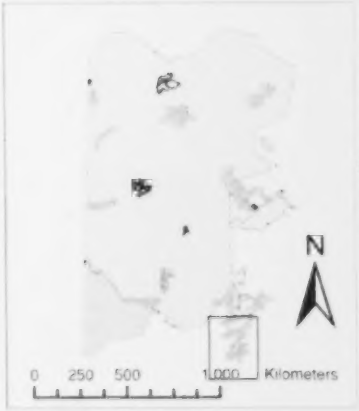


Figure 15. Nature Reserve and Access Zoning (NR14, NR15, NR16, A20, As9, As10)



NATURE RESERVES AND ACCESS ZONING (NR14,NR15,NR16,A20,As9,As10)



Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

0 1 2 4 Km

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Ontario

Ontario Parks

Base Features

- Provincial Boundary
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Tertiary Road
- River, Stream
- Lake
- Manitoba Parks
- Enhanced Management Area
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Reserve

Zoning

- Northern, Central, Southern Wilderness
- Bloodvein Gammon Wilderness
- Nature Reserves
- Year Round Air Access
- Year Round Road Access
- Year Round Water Access
- Seasonal Air Access
- Seasonal Air Snowmobile Access
- Seasonal Snowmobile Corridor

Figure 14: Nature Reserves and Access Zoning (A2, A3, A4)

ACCESS ZONING (A2,A3,A4)

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

0 1.25 2.5 5 Km

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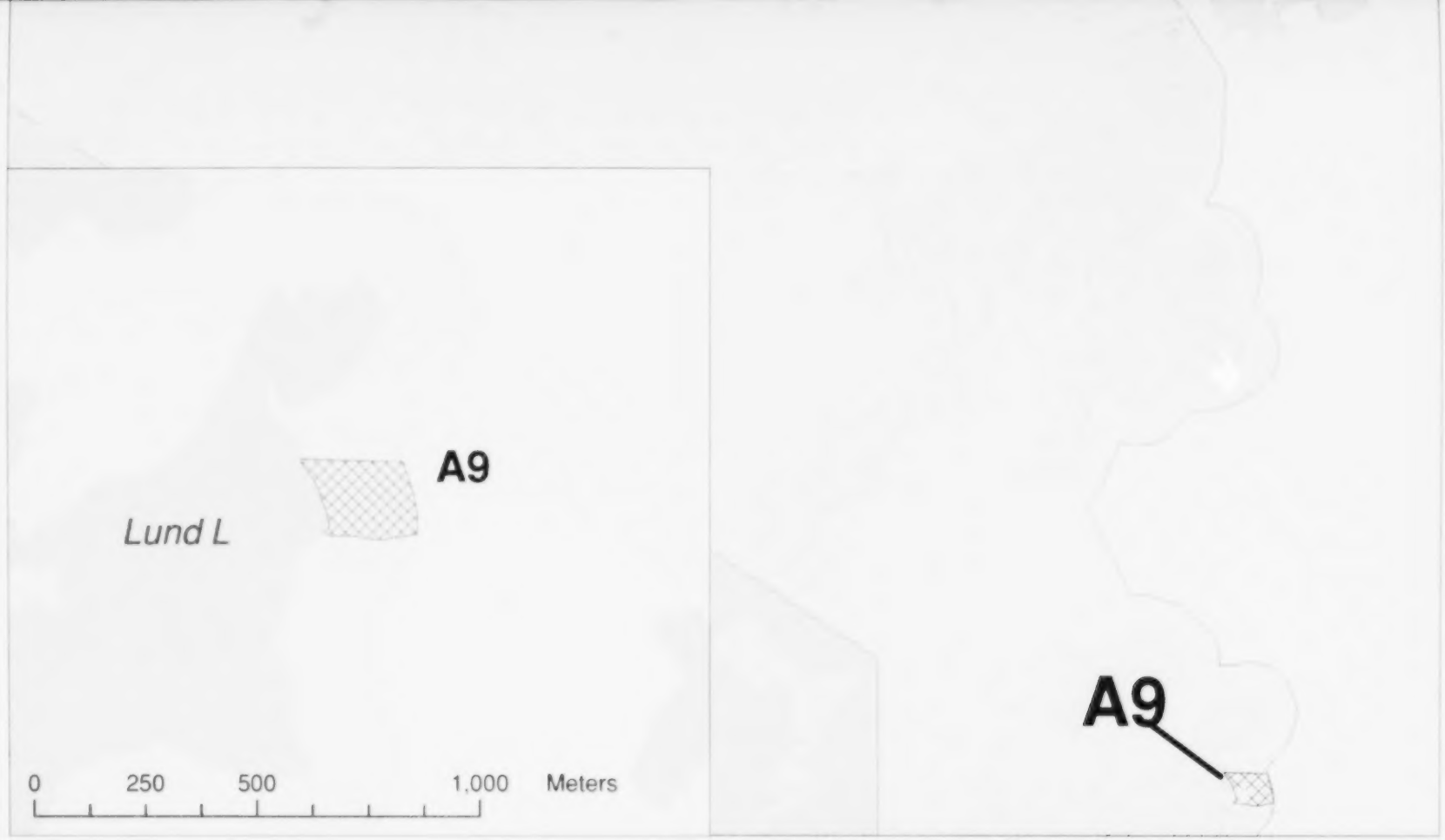
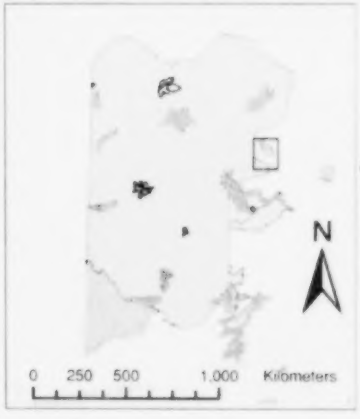
Ontario Ontario Parks

Figure 15: Nature Reserves and Access Zoning (A9, As1, As2)



ACCESS ZONING (A9, As1, As2)



Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

0 0.5 1 2 Km

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Ontario

Ontario Parks

Base Features

- Provincial Boundary
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Tertiary Road
- River \ Stream
- Lake
- Manitoba Parks
- Enhanced Management Area
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Reserve

Zoning

- Northern, Central, Southern Wilderness
- Bloodvein Gammon Wilderness
- Nature Reserves
- Year Round Air Access
- Year Round Road Access
- Year Round Water Access
- Seasonal Air Access
- Seasonal Air Snowmobile Access
- Seasonal Snowmobile Corridor

Figure 16: Nature Reserves and Access Zoning (A10, A11, As3, As4, As5, As6, As7)

ACCESS ZONING (A10, A11, As3, As4, As5, As6, As7)

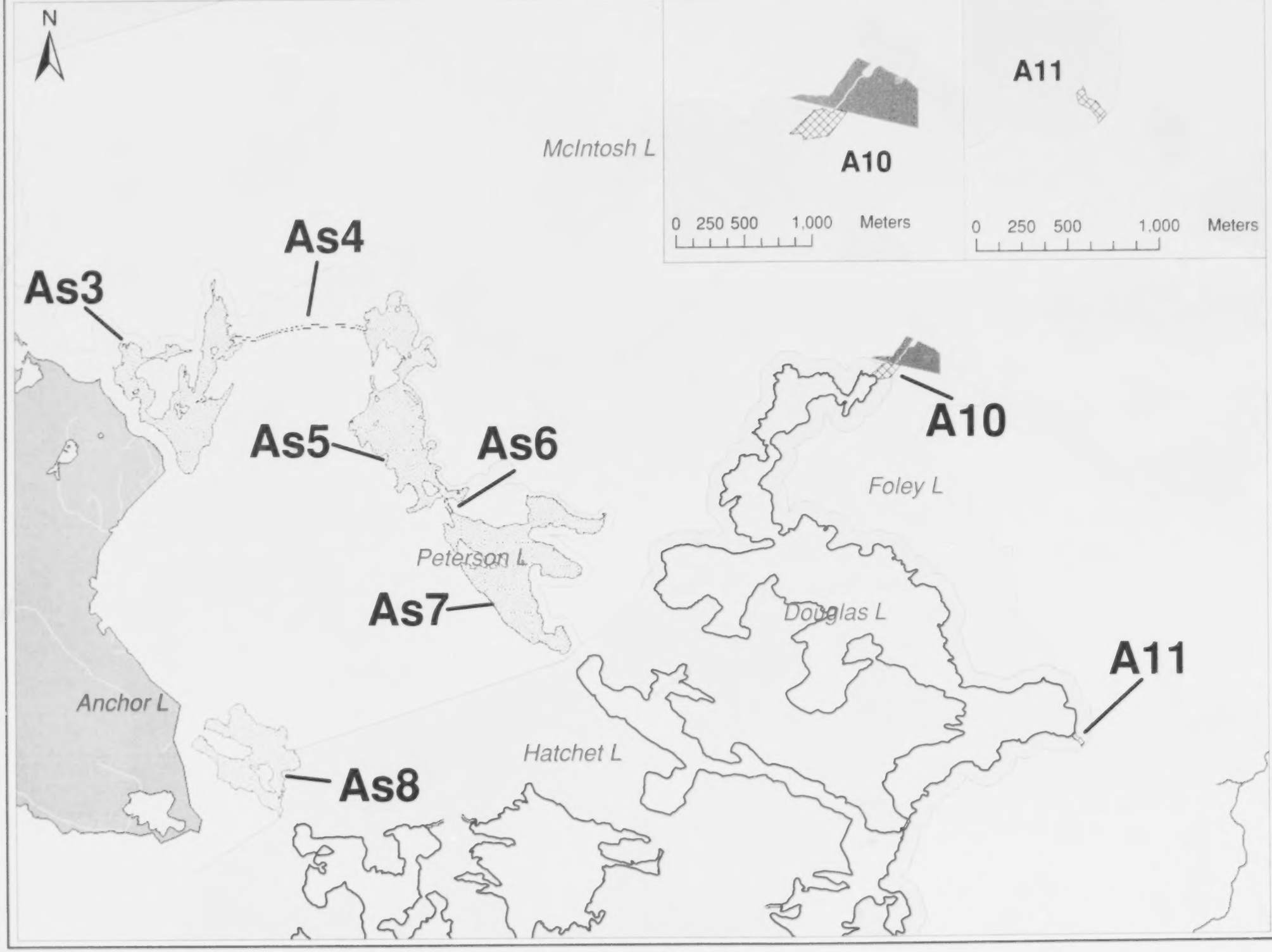

Figure 1: Snowmobile Pleasure

Figure 17: Snowmobile Playout

SNOWMOBILE PHASEOUT

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

0 5 10 20 Km

Scale: 1:350,000

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Produced by: Red Lake District -KMM

Ontario

Ontario Parks

Base Features

- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Provincial Boundary
- River / Stream
- Lake
- Provincial Park
- Proposed Park Addition
- Manitoba Parks
- Forest Reserve
- Conservation Reserve
- Enhanced Management Area

Snowmobile Phaseout

- Area where at the end of year 2, recreational snowmobiling will no longer be permitted
- Area where at the end of year 5, recreational snowmobiling will no longer be permitted
- Area where at the end of year 8, recreational snowmobiling will no longer be permitted
- Area where at the end of year 10, recreational snowmobiling will no longer be permitted

SNOWMOBILE PHASEOUT

N

Woodland Caribou
Provincial Park

Scale 1:100,000

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Ontario

Ontario Parks

Base Features

- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Provincial Boundary
- River, Stream
- Lake
- Provincial Park
- Proposed Park Addition
- Manitoba Park
- Forest Reserve
- Conservation Reserve
- Enhanced Management Area

Snowmobile Phaseout

Area where at the end of year 2 recreational snowmobiling will no longer be permitted.

Area where at the end of year 5 recreational snowmobiling will no longer be permitted.

Area where at the end of year 8 recreational snowmobiling will no longer be permitted.

Area where at the end of year 10 recreational snowmobiling will no longer be permitted.

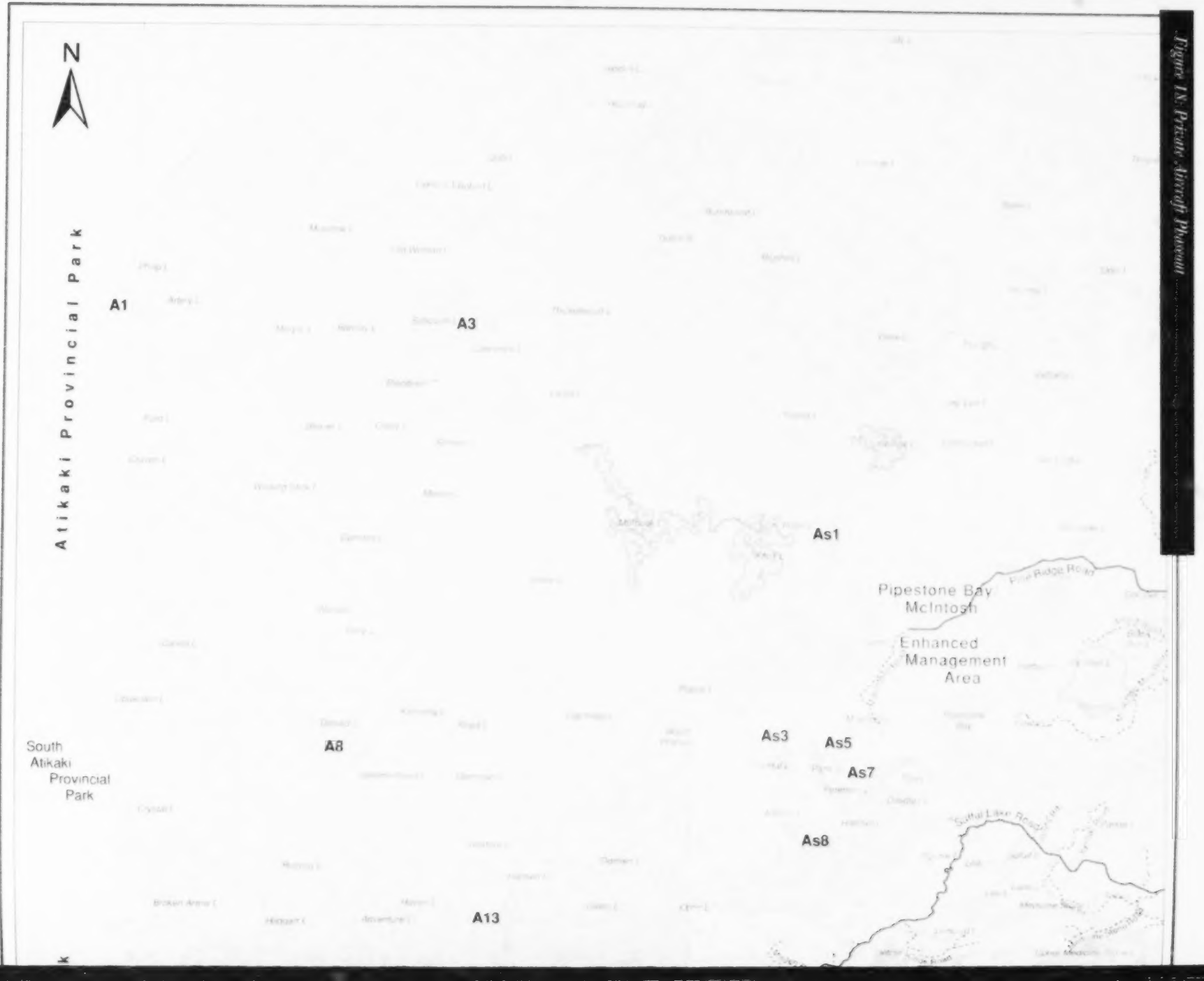

Figure 18: Private Aircraft Phase

PRIVATE AIRCRAFT PHASEOUT

Woodland Caribou Provincial Park

0 5 10 20 Km

Scale: 1:350,000

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Ontario

Ontario Parks

Base Features

- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Provincial Boundary
- River / Stream
- Lake
- Provincial Park
- Proposed Park Addition
- Manitoba Parks
- Forest Reserve
- Conservation Reserve
- Enhanced Management Area

Private Air Access Phaseout

- Area where at the end of year 2, private aircraft landings will no longer be permitted
- Area where at the end of year 4, private aircraft landings will no longer be permitted
- Air access permitted (year round seasonal)

Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve (C2405)

Preliminary Resource Management Plan

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Dear Sir or Madam:

We are pleased to present the Eagle – Snowshoe Conservation Reserve Preliminary Resource Management Plan for your review and comment.

Once approved, the final resource management plan will provide guidance for the management of the conservation reserve and the basis for ongoing monitoring of activities.

All comments or suggestions regarding this preliminary resource management plan or any other aspects of the planning exercise are welcome.

Your comments will be carefully considered in the preparation of the final Eagle – Snowshoe Conservation Reserve Preliminary Resource Management Plan.

Thank you for your continued interest.

Yours truly,

Fred S. Hall
District Manager
Kenora District
Ministry of Natural Resources

May 11/06
Date

Charlie Lauer
Regional Director
Northwest Region
Ministry of Natural Resources

May 12, 2006
Date

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve was selected for protection through *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* and was regulated on May 21, 2003. Conservation Reserves are established and regulated under the Public Lands Act. These areas are intended to complement provincial parks in protecting representative natural areas and special landscapes. The 'conservation reserve' designation provides management direction to permit many existing land use activities to continue

1.2 Resource Management Plan

This resource management plan provides long-term management direction for resource based activities occurring within the conservation reserve. The plan was developed in accordance with *Conservation Reserves Policy and Procedures* (1997) as amended by the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* (1999) and considers the associated recreation inventory, life science inventory and earth science inventory. The goal and objectives of the conservation reserve are identified within the resource management plan and where policy is limited, these goals and objectives will guide resource management planning for the protected area.

The management direction contained in this document will be reflected through amendment of the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas which is MNR's repository of current area-specific land use policies for Crown lands in the central part of Ontario. It identifies the basic land use intent and permitted uses for each of the designated areas. The intended direction to be reflected in the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas is included in Appendix ESCR – 1.

2.0 Planning Area

2.1 Site Location

The Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve is located within the Kenora District of the Northwest Region of Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). It is approximately 95 kilometres northwest of the City of Kenora. This protected area includes the area from Snowshoe Lake along the Ontario/Manitoba border, and northeast along a chain of lakes including Chase Lake and Midway Lake, and then ends at Eagle Lake where it meets the Woodland Caribou Provincial Park boundary. The conservation reserve is part of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site and will contribute to ensuring the ecological integrity of the area.

Wabaseemoong Independent Nations represents the Aboriginal interests in the area of the conservation reserve.

The Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve is located within the North Kenora Pilot Project Agreement Area. This agreement was established through the Alternative Dispute Resolution provisions contained within the Forest Management Planning process in an attempt to resolve a forestry – tourism conflict resulting from a proposed forest access road and bridge crossing between Sydney and Rowdy Lakes to access wood in the north part of the Kenora Forest. The provisions contained within this agreement reflect the efforts of all potential users of this area to reach agreement on unique regulations affecting access, sport fishing, Crown land camping, and hunting in this area. The agreement is based upon the premise that a proposed forest access road west of Sydney Lake could affect the resource based tourism industry in this area. Since access west of Sydney Lake has not been established and is no longer proposed, and the term of the agreement has expired, the regulation changes made will be revisited and those remaining as proposed will not be implemented..

2.2 *Conservation Reserve Description*

Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve is 35,621 hectares in size. Patent properties are not included in the protected area boundary.

The Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve contains representative examples of Canadian Shield topography including a glaciated landscape characterized by elongated lake systems, sudden changes in elevations, erratic drainage patterns, thin soils, and massive bedrock. The vegetation within the reserve is representative of the Southern Boreal Forest Region.

The conservation reserve supports a wide variety of wildlife including moose, white-tailed deer, black bear, various small game animals, and furbearers such as beaver, otter, marten, and fisher. In addition, this area contains important woodland caribou habitat and several calving/nursery areas have been confirmed along the Eagle Lake to Chase Lake corridor. This corridor also provides an important migration route for these caribou.

This area provides some of the highest quality recreational fishing opportunities in the Kenora District for walleye, northern pike, and lake trout. Angling serves to sustain seven outpost camps which contribute to the economy of the region. In addition to fishing, the conservation reserve provides opportunities for hunting, camping, and snowmobiling.

There are a few established campsites on various lakes within the reserve that can be accessed by water. There is also a high potential for canoeing within Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve as it is located between Nopiming Provincial Park in Manitoba and Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario. Both of these parks actively promote canoeing.

2.3 *Regional Setting*

Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve is located in the northwest region of the Province of Ontario. Please refer to Figure WCSS-1 for a map of the regional setting of this protected area.

Established protected areas within close proximity to Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve include:

- Musk Lake Conservation Reserve (C2382)
- Campfire River Conservation Reserve (C2368)
- Solitary Lake Conservation Reserve (C2362)
- Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (P2370)

The Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve forms part of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site, one of nine featured areas identified for protection through Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (1999). These featured areas are places of outstanding natural beauty and significant cultural value which provide high-quality wilderness recreation opportunities and tourism potential. The Woodland Caribou Signature Site is located in northwestern Ontario, approximately 30 kilometres west of the municipality of Red Lake, 90 kilometres north of the city of Kenora and 60 kilometres south of the community of Pikangikum. It consists of 537,585 hectares of protected land which includes Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, four proposed wilderness park additions, Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve, Pipestone Bay-McIntosh Enhanced Management Area (E2359a), and a forest reserve. Please refer to Figure WCPP-1 for a map of the signature site.

This resource management plan for Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation was developed as part of the planning for the Woodland Caribou Signature Site Strategy. However, the MNR, Kenora District will maintain administrative responsibility for the conservation reserve, including the periodic review of the approved Resource Management Plan.

3.0 Management Planning

3.1 Goal and Objectives

The primary goal guiding the development of this resource management plan is to provide permanent protection for natural and cultural heritage values in the area while permitting compatible land use activities to continue.

The objectives of the resource management plan are to:

1. Identify the natural heritage values associated with the Eagle-Snowshoe conservation reserve, including life science, earth science, and documented historical, cultural, and archaeological values.
2. Identify the resource uses/users and recreational activities taking place within the conservation reserve boundaries.
3. Develop a set of guidelines to manage activities of resource users so that the natural and cultural heritage features of the area are protected.
4. Ensure the protection of habitat and vegetation that supports the woodland caribou population that use the area.

3.2 Methods

This resource management plan was developed and is maintained through the following steps:

1. Preparation of Terms of Reference
2. Background Information preparation
3. Compilation and review of issues and options
4. Preparation of Preliminary Resource Management Plan
5. Preparation and approval of the Final Resource Management Plan
6. Periodic review of the approved Resource Management Plan

Public consultation efforts were coordinated with those for the Woodland Caribou Signature Site.

3.3 Survey of Conservation Reserve Values

Natural and cultural heritage data for the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve were acquired through surveys and research. The compilation of this information provides a basis for developing effective management direction and also directly contributes to the objectives of this Resource Management Plan. The following section identifies the inventory work and surveys that have been completed to date.

1. Detailed Life Science inventory and checksheet compiled March 2001 by Northern Bioscience.
2. Detailed Earth Science inventory and checksheet compiled March, 2001 by Blackburn Geological Services.
3. Recreation Resource Inventory compiled January, 2001 by MNR.
4. Aerial field inspection to verify values and locations completed September 2003 by MNR.

3.4 Project Planning Team

The Signature Site Planning Team is comprised of Ontario government staff representing relevant ministries and program areas. The Planning Team contributed knowledge and provided clarification to policy, programs, and procedures throughout the planning process. The Ministry of Natural Resources (Northwest Region, Red Lake District, and Kenora District) and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (Northern Development and Mineral sectors), were represented on the team.

3.5 Advisory Committee

An advisory committee was established in January 2003. It is made up of representatives with a wide range of interests and takes local, regional, and provincial perspectives into account. The advisory committee has established an approved operating procedure protocol, reviewed background information, agreed upon a vision statement for the signature site, identified issues and suggested options for the management of the site.

3.6 Public Consultation

Public consultation for the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve Resource Management Plan was undertaken in conjunction with consultation on the Woodland Caribou Signature Site Strategy. The following list identifies the individuals and groups that have an interest in the signature site. This list includes those that are directly affected or influenced by decisions relating to this protected area (alphabetical order).

- Bear management area holders
- Commercial tourism operators
- First Nations communities
- Forest management companies
- Mining companies
- Property owners
- Recreationalists (i.e. anglers, hunters, canoeists, and campers)
- Resource harvesters (trapline holders, bait-fish and leech licence holders)

Public consultation occurred throughout the planning process and the following identifies and describes the formal opportunities for the public to provide input.

Public Consultation Process

Stage 1 – Invitation to Participate

December 2002

The Terms of Reference for the signature site were made available for public review and comment at this stage of consultation. Potential issues and public concerns that could be addressed through resource management planning were also identified through the Invitation to Participate. A summary of this public consultation stage is available upon request.

Stage 2 – Public review of Background Information

February 2004

Public comments received through the first stage of public consultation were considered and incorporated, where appropriate, into the Background Information document. This document was available for public review and open houses were held in the communities of Ear Falls, Red Lake, Pikangikum, Kenora, Grassy Narrows, Kejick Bay, and Wabaseemoong between February and March 2004. Responses were used by the Project Planning Team to assist in identifying issues and alternatives.

Stage 3 – Public review of Issues and Options

May – June 2005

Public comments collected through the first two phases of public consultation were reviewed, summarized and compiled into the Issues and Options document and questionnaire. A series of information sessions were held in May 2005 to present this package and public comment was received until June 24, 2005.

Stage 4 – Public review of Preliminary Signature Site Strategy, including Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve draft Resource Management Plan

Dates to be determined

Public response to the Issues and Options package will be considered in the development of the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP). The draft RMP will be presented to the public as part of the Preliminary Signature Site Strategy and comments will be solicited through information sessions and the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry.

Stage 5 – Public Inspection of Approved Signature Site Strategy, including Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve Resource Management Plan

Dates to be determined

The approved strategy document, including the resource management plan, will be made available to the public.

4.0 Management Direction

The following management direction for the conservation reserve is in accordance with Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy and Conservation Reserves Policy and Procedures. All new activities within the conservation reserve are subject to the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.

4.1 First Nations

Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve is within the Treaty 3 area. There are several First Nations communities and associated Federal Reserve Lands that are close to the conservation area. These First Nations communities have been included in public consultation efforts relating to the signature site. This resource management plan recognizes that the health and welfare of these established communities is intrinsically linked to the natural resources of the area. Nothing in this resource management plan shall be construed so as to abrogate or derogate from the protection provided for the existing aboriginal or treaty rights of the aboriginal people of Canada as recognized and affirmed in section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.

4.2 Lands and Waters Resource Use

4.2.1 Aggregate Extraction

No aggregate extraction sites have been developed within the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve.

Management Direction:

Aggregate extraction will not be permitted within the conservation.

4.2.2 Energy Transmissions and Communications Corridors

No transmission lines or gas pipeline corridors exist within the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve.

Management Direction:

Utility corridors will not be permitted within the conservation reserve unless there are no demonstrated alternatives. In this event, the maintenance of such corridors, such as vegetation removal, will be permitted. Ancillary activities such as pumping stations and service yards will not be permitted within the site.

4.2.3 Commercial Hydro Development

Previous hydro development has not occurred within the conservation reserve. This may be attributed to the geographic location of the protected area and the lack of road access to the site.

Management Direction:

Commercial hydroelectric development or ancillary activities (i.e. flood-ways) will not be permitted within the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve.

4.2.4 Mineral Exploration and Development

No mineral exploration or extraction activities are permitted to occur within any conservation reserve, however, there are twenty (20) established patented mining claims surrounded by the conservation reserve boundary.

Management Direction:

The mining and surface rights of the lands and lands under water within the conservation reserve boundary are withdrawn from prospecting, staking out, sale or lease by the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM). Therefore, mineral exploration and development activities are not permitted within the conservation reserve. Likewise, ancillary activities associated with mineral exploration are not supported by this management plan. Necessary access to existing mining tenure for future mineral exploration and/or mining development will be permitted in the conservation reserve.

However, the twenty existing patents surrounded by the conservation reserve boundary are excluded from the protected area. In the event that these patented parcels are released to the Crown in the future, the Ministry of Natural Resources would consider options to incorporate this area(s) into the conservation reserve, provided that all the necessary steps are followed under the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* and the Crown Land Use Atlas policy amendment procedures.

4.2.5 Peat Extraction

Peat extraction activities will not be permitted within the conservation reserve.

4.2.6 Commercial Tourism

Commercial tourism includes resorts and lodges, outpost camps, guided non-resident bear hunting, and outfitting services. Outfitting services include the provision of recreational equipment such as canoes and boats to resource users.

Currently, there are eight commercial tourist establishments located within the conservation reserve boundary. Six of the eight facilities occur on land use permits, one occurs on leased property, and one exists on patent land.

The conservation reserve is located within the North Kenora Pilot Project Agreement Area which has been proposed as a 'green zone' under the Public Lands Act. This designation requires that non-residents of Canada who stay overnight within the conservation reserve must be accommodated by a registered tourism operator.

Management Direction:

Existing tourism operations are permitted to continue unless there are significant demonstrated conflicts. Requests for expansion or relocation of existing facilities may be considered subject to the 'test of compatibility' (see APPENDIX ESCR-2) and provided that there are demonstrated net benefits to the signature site. Tourism operators may apply for upgraded tenure, but not for patents.

The commercial tourism establishment occurring on patent land is also permitted to continue and it should be noted that management direction within this plan does not apply to activity on private property. Commercial tourism facilities will continue to be regulated under the Tourism Act.

No new permanent roofed accommodations will be permitted within the conservation reserve.

New ecotourism opportunities may be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to the 'test of compatibility'. Any associated dispositions will require the proponent to follow the appropriate process outlined in the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* and to demonstrate that there would be no negative impacts on the values for which the conservation reserve was designated.

This management plan recommends that the proposed non-resident no-camping restriction or "green zone" not be implemented for the area. This is intended to increase tourism opportunities for canoe outfitters by allowing their clients to overnight camp within the conservation reserve.

4.2.7 Private Recreation Camps (Hunt Camps)

There are no existing recreational hunt camps located within the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve boundary.

Management Direction:

No new hunt camps will be permitted within the conservation reserve as per Conservation Reserves Policy. This management direction only applies to tenured hunt camps and is not applicable to camping on Crown land for the purpose of hunting.

4.2.8 Campgrounds

There are no existing commercial campgrounds located within the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve.

Management Direction:

This management plan does not support the development of commercial campgrounds within the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve. New commercial campgrounds may not be consistent with the goal of maintaining the remote character of the area. Furthermore, limited access to the area indicates that commercial campgrounds could be better accommodated outside the conservation reserve.

4.2.9 Overnight Camping

No campsites are signed or designated and campers are not directed to specific camping locations within the Conservation Reserve. There are a substantial number of camping opportunities which are generally clearly marked by previous use. The sites are well used and are in good condition although some debris is occasionally left on site. Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve is located within a proposed non-resident no-camping zone which excludes non-residents of Canada from camping on Crown Land in the area.

Management Direction:

Overnight camping is permitted within the conservation reserve. No further management action is required at this time other than the implementation of the appropriate regulations as they pertain to such activities.

Should changes to the regulations governing overnight camping be made, they should be considerate of the intent of this resource management plan, however, they will follow the appropriate processes which are outside the amendment procedures of this document

This management plan recommends that the proposed non-resident no-camping restriction or "green zone" that was proposed in the *North Kenora Pilot Project Agreement not* be implemented for the area. This is intended to increase tourism opportunities for canoe outfitters by allowing their clients to overnight camp within the conservation reserve.

4.2.10 Campsite Designation

The designation of campsites would result in additional administrative and enforcement requirements for the MNR and some level of site maintenance would be necessary. The recreation inventory identifies that there are a substantial number of camping opportunities which are generally clearly marked by previous use. The sites are well used and are in good condition although some debris is occasionally left on site.

Management Direction:

This management plan will continue to support recreational camping within the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve. Due to administrative and enforcement constraints, the designation and maintenance of campsites within the conservation reserve is not feasible, nor required at this time. However, this management plan supports efforts to increase awareness of low-impact camping practices through education. These efforts could include the distribution of pamphlets that promote packing out all garbage and refraining from using cans and bottles on trips.

4.2.11 Access Roads

Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve is located in a remote location 95 kilometres northwest from the City of Kenora. There are no roads and/or trails which provide vehicle access directly into the site. The nearest road to the conservation reserve is Werner Lake Road which is located approximately 15 kilometers south from Snowshoe Lake.

Management Direction:

New resource access roads will not be permitted within the conservation reserve, with the exception of necessary access to existing mining tenure for future mineral exploration and/or mining development.

4.2.12 Crown Land Dispositions

There are a number of patented properties which exist within the conservation reserve. These properties are the result of patented mining claims which have been sold to independent owners and operators. As a result, there are three private cottages and one commercial tourist operation which exist within the conservation reserve. Other land dispositions include one Crown land lease and six land use permits, all of which are registered to commercial tourism operations occurring within the Eagle-Snowshoe area.

Management Direction:

Renewals of existing land use permits and leases will be permitted. Requests for transfers may be considered.

The sale of Crown land is not permitted with the exception of some types of minor dispositions to support existing permitted uses e.g. the sale of small parcels of land to provide adequate area for the installation of a septic system. The proponent will be required to demonstrate that the activity does not negatively impact the values which the conservation reserve is intended to protect.

New leases or land use permits to support approved activities may be considered subject to the 'test of compatibility'. Any such dispositions will require the proponent to follow the appropriate process outlined in the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* and to demonstrate that there would be no negative impacts on the values for which the conservation reserve was designated. New leases or land use permits will not be considered for facilities which provide for overnight accommodation unless otherwise stated in the management direction.

4.2.13 Type B Outpost Camps/Restricted Land Use Permits

Type B Outpost Camp (formerly referred to as Restricted or mini-land use permit) means an encampment of structures temporarily established on Crown land to provide accommodations to clients of an operator, for a non-recurring, short-term, single purpose site. Type B outpost camps provide the tourism operator with greater flexibility and increased opportunity.

If Type B outpost camps are permitted within the conservation reserve, these land disposition opportunities could be used to promote existing tourism facilities within the conservation reserve, encourage new tourism opportunities, or accommodate operators that are displaced from Woodland Caribou Provincial Park.

Management Direction:

New dispositions for Type B Outpost Camps may be considered within the conservation reserve. Any such dispositions will require the proponent to follow the appropriate process outlined in the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* and to demonstrate that there would be no negative impacts on the values for which the conservation reserve was designated. Consideration will be given to operators who can demonstrate that a net benefit to the Woodland Caribou Signature Site will be achieved through the disposition.

4.2.14 Boat Caches

A boat cache program was implemented in the Northwest Region in 1981 which required all boats cached on Crown land to display a decal with an assigned identification number. Boat caches are classified into three categories; commercial, resource harvester, and recreational/private.

Commercial boat caches are used to support commercial tourism activities such as angling and hunting. The authority holder must be either a tourist operator licensed under the Tourism Act, or a houseboat operator with four or more rental units, or a licensed air carrier.

Resource harvester boat caches are those that are utilized in support of commercial bait fishing and/or fur harvesting activities. The authority holder must hold a valid licence or have approval for the commercial harvest or utilization of natural resources, and must require the use of a boat.

Recreational boat caches are used to support personal recreational activities. Recreational boat cache authority can only be held by residents of Ontario or non-residents who require the use of a boat to access private property.

Management Direction

Existing boat cache authority is permitted to continue unless resource sustainability is at risk or there are significant demonstrated conflicts. New resource harvester boat caches may be considered subject to the 'test of compatibility'. New commercial tourism and private boat cache authority may be considered if it provides demonstrated net benefits to the Woodland Caribou Signature Site.

Any such dispositions will require the proponent to follow the appropriate process outlined in the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves* and to demonstrate that there would be no negative impacts on the values for which the conservation reserve was designated.

4.2.15 Trail Development

Land-based trails and portages exist within the conservation reserve including portions of snowmobile and canoe routes. Other trails exist to allow fur harvesters access to their trapline areas. During the winter the frozen waterbodies also provide a means of snowmobile access to the conservation reserve. Please refer to Figure ESCR-1 for a map of documented trails within the conservation reserve as derived from the Natural Resource Values Information System (NRVIS). These trails represent routes that may be shared by canoeists and snowmobiles. There may be existing trails not captured through survey efforts.

Horseback riding, hiking and mountain biking trails have not been identified within the conservation reserve and are unlikely to exist due to the limited access to the area.

Management Direction:

Existing trails for motorized travel are permitted to continue provided that they do not negatively impact values for which the conservation reserve was designated. Snowmobile and all-terrain vehicle activity is permitted on existing trails; off trail use is permitted only for the direct retrieval of game. New trail development, including tenure to support new trails, will not be permitted within the conservation reserve. The establishment of new trails would not be consistent with management efforts to maintain the wilderness character of the area.

4.2.16 Signage

Management Direction:

Educational signage may be permitted within the conservation reserve. Consideration may be given to establishing signage provided that it is used to convey messages that are consistent with the protection objectives of the conservation reserve. Signage must be displayed so as not to negatively impact the identified values of the protected area. This management plan does not support the posting of signs for the purpose of advertising.

4.2.17 Non-Motorized Recreational Travel

Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve abuts the south end of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, a protected area that is well known for its wilderness canoe routes. Portage trails throughout the conservation reserve provide access to remote lakes for canoeists and recreationalists. Please refer to Figure ESCR-1 for a map that includes the known canoe/kayak routes within the conservation reserve.

Management Direction:

Non-mechanized recreational travel will continue to be permitted within the conservation reserve provided that there are no significant demonstrated conflicts including negative impacts to identified values. New trail development to support these activities (e.g. new portages) will be considered subject to the 'test of compatibility.'

4.3 Fisheries

4.3.1 Commercial Fishing

Commercial fish are defined as "any fish that are harvested by the commercial fishing industry under the authority of a commercial fishing licence" (OMNR, 1987).

Commercial fishing has occurred on two of the largest lakes within the conservation reserve, Snowshoe Lake and Eagle Lake. Licences were granted during the late 1950s. The commercial licences were for the harvesting of walleye and northern pike. Early into the 1970s, testing for mercury contamination occurred in response to Dryden Paper Mill's contamination of the English River system. The testing indicated that both Eagle Lake and Snowshoe Lake had high natural mercury concentrations, but these levels were not due to contamination. These lakes, however, were closed to the commercial fishery from 1972 to 1978. The fishery was re-opened again in 1979 for the harvesting of whitefish from both Snowshoe and Eagle Lakes. Activity continued until the licences were acquired by the MNR in 1989 based upon direction in the Kenora District Fisheries Management Plan.

Management Direction:

No new commercial fishing operations will be considered for the Eagle-Snowshoe area due to the retirement of the licences in 1989, the high cost of operating commercial fisheries in this remote area, and potential conflicts with the sport fishery.

4.3.2 Bait-fish/Leech Harvesting

Portions of five baitfish harvest areas and five leech harvest areas are within the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve boundary. No opportunities for new harvest operations exist because all areas have been allocated in the past. Please refer to APPENDIX ESCR-3 for a list of the harvest blocks within the conservation reserve.

Management Direction:

Existing baitfish and leech harvest areas are permitted to continue unless there are significant demonstrated conflicts. Requests for transfers will be considered subject to the 'test of compatibility' and current MNR policy.

4.3.3 Sport Fishing

Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve contains high quality recreational fishing opportunities for walleye, northern pike, bass and lake trout. The majority of anglers who fish these lakes are flown into the area by floatplane and stay at one of the outpost camps, cottages or private lodges located within the conservation reserve boundary.

This area is part of the *North Kenora Pilot Project Agreement* area which is subject to conservation sport fish limits only.

Management Direction:

Sport fishing is a permitted activity within the conservation reserve. No further management action is required at this time other than the implementation of the current annual Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary. This summary is in compliance with the federal Fisheries Act and Regulations and the provincial Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

Should changes to the sport fishing regulations be made, they should be considerate of the intent of this resource management plan, however, they will follow the appropriate processes which are outside the amendment procedures of this document.

Since access west of Sydney Lake has not been established and is no longer proposed (rationale for the *North Kenora Pilot Project Agreement*), and the term of the agreement has expired, the conservation sport fish limits only regulation will be reviewed as part of the current process to review Ontario's Sport Fishing regulations for this Fisheries Management Zone which includes the conservation reserve.

4.3.4 Fish Stocking

No authorized fish stocking attempts have been made within the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve.

Management Direction:

A requirement to stock fish in lakes is not anticipated at this time. However, this management plan supports this activity as a means to sustain the values which the conservation reserve was designated to protect. The conservation reserve will follow the most appropriate and current resource management direction applicable to the watershed. Fisheries programs such as stocking would be subject to the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*. This would require an evaluation of the impacts of the proposal and public consultation prior to approval.

4.3.5 Fish Habitat Management

Habitat management would entail efforts to sustain and/or promote aquatic and upland habitat to support the fisheries. This activity could include work to improve spawning beds and slope stabilization to prevent excess sediment from entering the aquatic habitat. No previous fish habitat management activities have occurred within the conservation reserve to date which may be a result of the limited access available to the site.

Management Direction:

Fish habitat management and improvement projects will be supported by this management plan. These activities would be consistent with the management objective of protecting natural heritage values within the conservation reserve. Specific programs would be subject to the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*

4.4 Forest Resources

As a result of a forest fire that swept through the northern section of the conservation reserve, a patchy forest cover of jack pine, mixed jack pine and black spruce, and other mixed hardwoods now dominate the reserve. The southern two thirds of the conservation reserve supports stands of mature jack pine, black spruce and scattered balsam fir on rock outcrops. The hardwood stands consist primarily of trembling aspen and white birch with a combination of balsam fir and white spruce. There is also a presence of tamarack in the poorly drained lowlands and along portions of the lake shorelines.

Bur oak savannahs are a significant feature of the Wingiskus Lake and Eagle Lake areas. These occurrences are significant because they are at the northern extent of their range and because of their relationship to prairie vegetation communities.

4.4.1 Commercial Timber Harvest

Prior to regulation, Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve was located within the Kenora Forest. The Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) for the Kenora Forest is issued to Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd.

Management Direction:

Commercial timber harvest is not permitted within the conservation reserve. Furthermore, this management plan does not support any ancillary activities (i.e. work camps) associated with forest harvesting. This management direction applies to the commercial harvest of all tree species and other forest resources including Canada Yew.

4.4.2 Insect/Disease Suppression

As part of the Boreal Forest, portions of the conservation reserve have been subject to previous insect outbreaks including the Forest Tent Caterpillar (Malacosoma disstria), Spruce Budworm (Choristoneura fumiferana), and Jack Pine Budworm (Choristoneura pinus pinus). These natural processes will likely occur again in the future.

Management Direction:

The decision for the MNR to manage insect and disease outbreaks is usually related to saving mature timber until such time as harvesting can occur. As commercial timber harvesting is not a permitted use within the conservation reserve, these natural processes will be permitted to occur without intervention. However, if it is determined through appropriate processes that the forest/vegetation is threatened by an invasion of a non-native species, this management plan supports the application of control agents to the lands within the conservation reserve subject to the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.*

4.4.3 Fuelwood and other small scale uses

Fuelwood is often required by leaseholders, cottagers and other property owners who do not have road access to their property. Fuelwood and other small scale uses are not intended for large-scale cutting for building structures such as log homes.

Management Direction:

The cutting of trees for non-commercial purposes may be authorized by permit to leaseholders, cottagers and other property owners who do not have road access to their property and who have no alternative means of obtaining fuelwood or other small scale uses outside of the conservation reserve. Any applications will be subject to a 'test of compatibility' as well as a review and subsequent determination of the impacts that such cutting would have on natural and cultural heritage values. This resource management plan supports this activity provided that permits are limited to personal use only.

4.4.4 Vegetation Management

Vegetation of the conservation reserve is typical of the southern boreal forest region which is represented by thin soils. The site is located in a high occurrence area for forest fires and represents a dynamic ecology which can change dramatically over a short time period. Species that are found within the conservation reserve include birch, poplar, spruce, balsam fir and jack pine. Large areas of exposed bedrock provide a suitable environment for the Woodland Caribou that inhabit the area and the lichens that grow on the bedrock provide them with good winter forage.

The organic make-up of the conservation reserve is primarily represented by swamps and marshes which provide excellent habitat for the waterfowl of the area.

Management Direction:

Vegetation management within the conservation reserve will follow the most appropriate direction applicable to the area immediately outside the protected area boundary. However, the adopted strategy must be consistent with the other management directions of this Resource Management Plan. Non-native species will not be deliberately introduced to the conservation reserve. Where established introduced species threaten the life science values in the conservation reserve, a management plan and program may be developed for their control. This management direction is consistent with Conservation Reserves Policy.

4.4.5 Fire Suppression

Please refer to Figure ESCR-2 for a fire history map of the conservation reserve and surrounding area.

Management Direction:

This resource management plan recognizes fire as an important ecosystem process, fundamental to restoring and maintaining the ecological integrity of the natural environment represented within this conservation reserve. The role of fire and preliminary fire management objectives for the conservation reserve will be developed and documented through a Statement of Fire Intent. Following this process, a Fire Management Plan will be developed which will specifically address objectives and prescribed actions with respect to fire response and fire use over a period of time. The Fire Management Plan will be developed in accordance with the Fire Management Planning Guidelines for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves and will involve public consultation.

Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve is located within the Boreal Fire Management Zone. An Interim Fire Response Plan has been developed for the conservation reserve to direct fire management until a Fire Management Plan is completed. This direction is consistent with current Fire Management Policy for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.

All fires within the conservation receives an appropriate response commensurate with the potential impact of each fire on public health and safety, property and values, the predicted behaviour of each fire, and the estimated cost of fire response. More detail on specific strategies can be found in the Woodland Caribou Signature Site Interim Fire Response Plan.

Whenever feasible, the OMNR fire program will endeavour to use "light on the land" techniques, which do not unduly disturb the landscape, in this conservation reserve.

Examples of light on the land techniques may include limiting the use of heavy equipment and limiting the number of trees felled during response efforts.

These management directions are consistent with Conservation Reserves Policy.

4.4.6 Prescribed Burning

Many boreal vegetation species are fire dependent that require fire as part of their natural life cycle. Fire is essential in the regeneration of these species, as well as in maintaining old growth red and white pine stands.

Management Direction:

Opportunities for prescribed burning to achieve ecological or resource management objectives may be considered. These management objectives will be developed with public consultation prior to any prescribed burning, and reflected in the document that provides management direction for this conservation reserve. Plans for any prescribed burning will be developed in accordance with the MNR *Prescribed Burn Planning Manual* and the *Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves.*

4.5 Wildlife Resources

The Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve is located within Wildlife Management Unit #2. The area surrounding Wingiskus, Eden, Bee, Anderson, and Rickaby Lakes has been identified as having a high moose density. The remaining area to the east and south of these lakes, which includes Eagle, Chase, and Snowshoe Lakes, has a medium moose density. The area located from Raehill Lake north to the boundary of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park has a low moose density.

Furbearers included within the conservation reserve include beaver, muskrat, mink, fisher, marten, weasel, lynx, fox, wolf, squirrel, and black bear. There are portions of four registered traplines within the reserve boundary.

After World War II, a large herd of Woodland Caribou was spotted near Irregular Lake. This sighting prompted the protection of the caribou. Over the past decades, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has adopted an approach of sustainable development in resource management intended to maintain caribou populations and habitat across the landscape.

During the summer months, some caribou migrate south from their winter range, located in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park, into the conservation reserve. Caribou sightings have been concentrated around Eagle Lake to Chase Lake where caribou calving areas have been confirmed. The Kenora District MNR implemented a collar telemetry program in 1997, as part of a commitment made from the North Kenora Pilot Project to provide information on caribou behaviour and migration routes (Ranta, 2001).

4.5.1 Commercial Fur Harvesting

The Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve includes portions of four registered trapline areas; two are managed by the Kenora District; and two are managed by the Red Lake District. One trapline cabin exists within the conservation reserve. Please refer to Figure ESCR-1 for a map of the trapline areas.

Management Direction:

Existing commercial fur harvesting activity by aboriginal people can continue indefinitely. Transfer of traplines between status Indians is permitted and transfer of traplines to non-native trappers will be considered subject to the "test of compatibility". No new opportunities for trapline areas exist within the conservation reserve as all areas are currently allocated.

Existing trap cabins are permitted within the protected area. Relocation of the existing cabins and new cabins will be encouraged outside of the conservation reserve, but will be considered within the protected area if required. The location will be dependant on the protection of natural heritage values and other uses/activities. Considerations will be made for safety and practicality.

Trapping activities are regulated under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and the Endangered Species Act, and are summarized in the annual *Summary of the Fur Management Regulations*. Length of trapping season varies, depending on the species being harvested.

4.5.2 Commercial Bear Hunting

Commercial bear hunting includes tourist operators providing bear hunting services to non-resident hunters. There are portions of six bear management licence areas that are located within the conservation reserve; three are vacant; three are currently allocated to operators and are managed by the Kenora District OMNR. Please refer to Figure ESCR-3 for a map of the bear management areas.

Management Direction:

Existing authorized operations within the conservation reserve are permitted to continue. Consistent with conservation reserve policy, licences will not be issued for any of the three bear management areas which have never been allocated in the past. Transfers of BMA licences will be considered subject to the 'test of compatibility' provided that there are no demonstrated impacts to the values the conservation reserve is intended to protect.

4.5.3 Hunting

The conservation reserve is located within Wildlife Management Unit 2 (WMU). Both resident and non-resident hunters target moose, white-tailed deer, black bear, and upland birds. Moose hunting provides a quality tourism opportunity for operators in the area.

Management Direction:

Hunting is a permitted activity within the conservation reserve and is regulated under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, the Migratory Birds Convention Act, and the Endangered Species Act. The construction of permanent "hunt camps" will not be permitted within the conservation reserve (see section 4.2.7).

4.5.4 Wildlife Population Management

Management Direction:

Wildlife population management will follow the most appropriate and current resource management direction that is applicable to the area immediately outside the conservation reserve boundary. This direction will be consistent with other management direction within this Resource Management Plan.

4.5.5 *Wildlife Viewing*

Management Direction:

The conservation reserve was designated to protect the significant natural resource values that occur within the Eagle-Snowshoe area. Wildlife viewing is consistent with management objectives and this activity is supported through this management plan.

4.6 *Other Alternate Uses*

4.6.1 *Collecting*

The OMNR does not issue permits for commercial collections of natural resources and this management plan does not support this activity. Collections of a personal nature, such as gathering wildflowers and antler sheds, will be considered an existing use and are supported by this management plan. However, collectors need to be aware that these activities may be subjected to other legislation (i.e. Endangered Species Act).

4.6.2 *Food Harvesting (Commercial)*

Commercial food harvesting would include activities such as blueberry picking or the harvesting of wild mushrooms for the purpose of selling for profit. Currently there is no known commercial food harvesting operations occurring within the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve.

Management Direction:

This management plan does not support commercial food harvesting within the conservation reserve as this activity may negatively impact values which the conservation reserve was designated to protect.

4.6.3 *Food Gathering (Personal)*

Food gathering would include blueberry picking or wild mushroom picking for personal use. This activity does not include hunting or fishing.

Management Direction:

Personal food gathering is a permitted within the conservation reserve and will be supported by this management plan.

4.6.4 *Historical Appreciation*

The cultural heritage values of the conservation reserve seem to be limited to the pre-historic hunter-gatherers of the boreal forest and Canadian Shield. The fur trade period is well represented within the area through its use as a travel route to local trading posts in the Red Lake area and on Lake Winnipeg. These travel routes play a key role in understanding the economic and ecological relationships of the people who have occupied the land for the past 6000 years.

In the Eagle-Snowshoe conservation reserve there are eleven recorded archaeological sites. Most of these sites, which include small campsites, were identified during brief surveys for the West Patricia Inventory Project conducted during the late 1970's and early 1980's. In order to protect these sensitive values, specific site locations are protected and are not published in this management plan.

Management Direction:

Ontario archaeological sites and artifacts are protected through provincial legislation under the Cemetery Act, the Ontario Heritage Act and the Planning Act. Alteration, destruction, and/or removal of any archaeological values are prohibited by law and could result in prosecution and significant fines. Archaeological research or studies undertaken will be permitted through this management plan, but will be subject to the Acts identified above prior to initiation of any study.

Furthermore, approved and licenced research may be beneficial in documenting the cultural/historical significance of the protected area. Additional studies could help to identify and ultimately ensure the protection of historical artifacts, provided that the research is conducted in a manner that does not compromise the values that have been previously documented for the conservation reserve.

This management plan will continue to support the protection of the area's historical archaeological values.

4.6.5 *Inventory/Monitoring*

Management Direction:

Research inventories and monitoring activities are permitted within the conservation reserve. These activities are encouraged in order to provide a better understanding of the natural processes occurring in the area and to enhance the protection of significant values through improved planning and management. This management plan supports the continuation of these activities provided that they do not negatively impact the values the conservation reserve is intended to protect.

Individuals or groups with an interest in conducting research in this conservation reserve are required to submit a completed application to the Ministry of Natural Resources. Further information about this process and the required application are available at *http://www.ontarioparks.com/english/form2.html.*

4.6.6 *Wild Rice Harvesting*

Under the Wild Rice Harvesting Act (1960), except under the authority of a licence, no person shall harvest or attempt to harvest wild rice on Crown land. In 1978, a five year moratorium was passed on issuing additional licences to any non-native persons until such a time that "the market potential could support increased production by non-native harvesters". Five years later, a review of that decision resulted in the moratorium being extended indefinitely in the Kenora and Dryden Districts for non-native harvesters. Current harvesting of wild rice is managed by the individual First Nations Bands.

Management Direction:

Commercial wild rice harvesting rights within the Eagle-Snowshoe area are held by Wabaseemoong Independent Nations members and harvesting for personal use is permitted for Treaty 3 status members. Non-natives and non-status individuals cannot harvest rice for any use. Should opportunities for commercial ricing become available in the conservation reserve, an amendment to this plan will be considered.

5.0 *Amendments to Resource Management Plan*

Every effort has been made to provide management direction that addresses current activities and levels of use within the Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve. Efforts were also made to anticipate and plan for future resource use in the preparation of this management plan.

There is no intent to carry out a comprehensive review of the Eagle Snowshoe Conservation Reserve Resource Management Plan at any prescribed interval. Using adaptive management, the resource management policies in this document will be
kept current through periodic amendments resulting from changes in government policy,
new resource information or in response to public need.

Proposed amendments must not alter the overall intent of the Eagle Snowshoe Conservation Reserve Resource Management Plan. An amendment to the plan may be requested at any time and the District Manager will decide whether or not to consider it. Requests for amendments must have a basis in fact, demonstrably relate to the scope of the plan, and respond to changing resource conditions, new information, changing government policies or public need. The MNR also has the authority to initiate amendments in response to new information or changed conditions.

Amendments will be classified as either minor or major. Minor amendments are those changes that do not have a negative effect on the public, adjacent landowners or the environment and are generally administrative in nature. Minor amendments will be approved by the District Manager and will not normally be subject to public consultation. Major amendments have a significant social, economic and/or environmental impact. Major amendments will be reviewed by the MNR District Manager and submitted to the Regional Director for approval. Public consultation will occur for all major amendments and notice of all major amendments will be posted on the EBR electronic registry.

6.0 *References*

Blackburn, C.F. Blackburn Geological Services, *Earth Science Inventory Check List for Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve*, 2001

Blackburn Geological Services, *Earth Science Inventory for Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve*, 2000

Jones, Mike. Northern Bioscience, *Life Science Inventory for Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve*, 2000

Northern Bioscience, *Natural Heritage Area-Life Science Checksheet for Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve*, 2001

Kenora District Fisheries Management Plan, 1987-2000

OMNR Northwest Region, *Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve Background Information Document*

OMNR Northwest Region, *Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve Recreational Inventory Report*, 2001

Ranta, B.. OMNR, *Report on Woodland Caribou and Their Use of Habitats in the Kenora Management Unit and Southern Portions of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park*. 2001

Appendix ESCR 1: Permitted Used Summary Table

Activity	Permitted	Guidelines
Lands and Waters Resource Use		
Aggregate Extraction	NO	
Energy Transmission and Communications Corridors	NO	Unless no demonstrated alternatives exist.
Commercial Hydro Development	NO	
Mineral Exploration and Development	NO	
Peat Extraction	NO	
Commercial Tourism		
Existing	YES	
New	NO	
Outfitting Services		
Existing	YES	New ecotourism opportunities may be considered subject to the "test of compatibility".
New	NO	
Outpost Camps		
Existing	YES	
New	NO	
Resorts/Lodges		
Existing	YES	
New	NO	
Private Recreation Camps	NO	
Campgrounds	NO	
Crown Land Camping		
Resident	YES	
Non-resident	YES	
Campsite Designation	NO	
Access Roads		
Existing	YES	
New	NO	
Crown Land Dispositions	NO	No overnight roofed accommodations will be permitted.
Commercial Boat Caches		
Existing	YES	New caches may be considered if a net benefit for the Signature Site is demonstrated.
New	YES	

Activity	*Permitted*	*Guidelines*
Resource Harvester Boat Caches		
Existing	YES	Relocation of existing boat caches, or new boat caches
New	YES	will be subject to the "test of compatibility".
Recreation Boat Caches		
Existing	YES	Relocation of existing boat caches, or new boat caches will be subject to the "test of compatibility".
New	YES	
Trail Development		
Existing	YES	
New	NO	
All Terrain Vehicle Use		
Existing	YES	
New	NO	
Snowmobiling		
Existing	YES	
New	NO	
Rock Climbing		
Existing	YES	
New	NO	
Signage		
Existing	YES	
New	YES	
Motor Boat Use	YES	
Non-Motorized Recreation Travel	YES	
Fisheries Resource		
Commercial Fishing	NO	
Bait-fish Harvest		
Existing	YES	Requests for transfers will be considered based on the 'test of compatibility'.
New	N/A	
Sport Fishing	YES	Subject to conservation limits in accordance with the current annual Recreational Fishing Regulations Summary.
Fish Stocking	MAYBE	Subject to the Environmental Assessment Act.
Fish Habitat Management	YES	

Activity	*Permitted*	*Guidelines*
Forestry Resources		
Commercial Timber Harvest	NO	
Insect/Disease Suppression	MAYBE	If forest/vegetation is threatened by infestation of non-native species.
Fuelwood and other small scale uses	MAYBE	Applications will only be considered from property owners for personal use.
Vegetation Management	YES	Consistent with management direction for areas immediately outside of conservation reserve.
Fire Suppression	YES	According to *Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario and Conservation Reserves Policy*.
Prescribed Burning	MAYBE	Plans to be developed in accordance with *MNR Prescribed Burn Planning Manual* and the *Class EA for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves*.
Wildlife Resources		
Commercial Fur Harvesting		
Existing	YES	
New	NO	Existing commercial fur harvesting activity by aboriginal people can continue indefinitely. Transfer of traplines between status Indians is permitted and transfer of traplines to non-native trappers will be considered subject to the "test of compatibility". No new opportunities for trapline areas exist within the conservation reserve as all areas are currently allocated."
Trap Cabins		
Existing	YES	
New	NO	Relocation of existing cabins may be considered subject to "test of compatibility". New cabins will be encouraged outside the conservation reserve, but may be considered within the CR in the interest of safety and practicality.
Bear Hunting by Non-residents		
Existing	YES	
New	NO	Transfer in BMA ownership will be considered subject to "test of compatibility".
Hunting	YES	

Activity	*Permitted*	*Guidelines*
Wildlife Population Management	MAYBE	In accordance with the most appropriate and current direction that is applicable to the area immediately outside the conservation reserve boundaries.
Wildlife Viewing	YES	
Other Alternate Uses		
Collecting		
Commercial	NO	
Personal	YES	Subject to applicable legislation.
Food Harvesting (Commercial)	NO	
Food Harvesting (Personal)	YES	
Historical Appreciation	YES	Subject to applicable legislation.
Inventory/Monitoring	YES	
Law Enforcement	YES	
Research	YES	Subject to applicable legislation.
Wild Rice Harvesting		
Existing	YES	
New	NO	Subject to existing policy direction.

Appendix ESCR-2: Test of Compatability

Procedure No.	Date Issued	New ✓ / Revised	Page
PL 3.03.05	February 11, 1997		7 of 22

PROCEDURAL GUIDELINE B - LAND USES - TEST OF COMPATIBILITY

The Conservation Reserve policy provides broad direction with regard to the permitted uses. The policy provides **only an indication** of the variety of uses that will be considered acceptable in conservation reserves. The only caution is that **"any new uses, and commercial activities associated with them, will be considered on a case by case basis, and, they must pass a test of compatibility to be acceptable."** What does a 'test of compatibility' mean?

An examination of this must start from the premise of why an area is set aside - specifically, its representative natural heritage values. Criteria are then identified to guide compatibility considerations. These criteria apply to the long term acceptability of both existing uses and new uses.

1. **Conformity to SCI/RMP:** SCI describe values for which an area has been set aside and the range of appropriate uses that will be permitted in the area. SCI may also speak to the acceptability of other 'new' uses currently not occurring in the area.

   The first 'test' is: "do proposed new land uses and/or commercial activities conform to the direction of the SCI/RMP for the conservation reserve? Would the new use(s) depart from the spirit of appropriate indicator land uses in the SCI/RMP?"

2. **Impact Assessment**: If the proposed use(s) pass test one it is important to determine their impact on the area before they are approved. This should include the following:

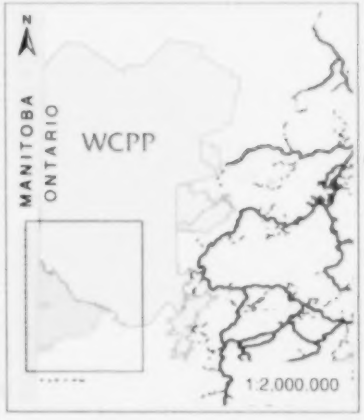
   - impact on **natural heritage values**: "will the new use(s) impact any natural values in the area? If so how and to what degree? Is it tolerable?"
   - impact on **cultural values**: "will the new use(s) impact any historical or archaeological values in the area?"
   - impact on **research activities**: "will the new use(s) affect any research activities in the area?"
   - impact on **current uses**: "will the new use(s) have any negative impact on the array of current uses?"
   - impact on **area administration**: "will the new use(s) increase administrative costs and/or complexity?" (For example, the cost of area monitoring, security and enforcement).
   - impact of **accommodating the use outside** the conservation reserve: "Could the use(s) be accommodated as well or better outside the conservation reserve?"
   - impact on **socio-economics of the area**: "will the new use(s) affect the community(ies) surrounding the area in a positive or negative way?" (For example, will the new use make the area less remote thereby affecting a local tourism industry that is dependent on the area's remoteness for its appeal)?
   - impact on **area accessibility**: "does the new use(s) give someone exclusive rights to the area or a portion of the area to the exclusion of other existing uses?"

Appendix ESCR-3: Bait-fish/Leech harvest blocks of ESCR (C2405)

Bait-fish/Leech Block #	*Managed by:*
507951	Kenora District, OMNR
506951	Kenora District, OMNR
506944	Kenora District, OMNR
505951	Kenora District, OMNR
505944	Kenora District, OMNR

Figure 1: Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Reserve Trapline

EAGLE-SNOWSHOE CONSERVATION RESERVE TRAPLINES



Woodland Caribou
Signature Site

0 2.5 5 10 Km

Scale: 1:150,000

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This map is illustrative only. Do not rely on it as being a precise indicator of routes, locations of features, nor as a guide to navigation.

Projection: UTM Grid Zone 15
Datum: North American Datum 1983
Base Derived From: NRVIS (Natural Resource Values Information System)
Produced by: Red Lake District -KMM

Ontario

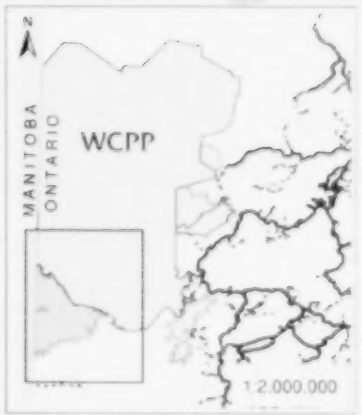
Ontario Parks

Base Features

- Provincial Boundary
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- Trails
- River \ Stream
- Lake
- Provincial Park
- Manitoba Parks
- Conservation Reserve
- Trapline Area

Figure 2: Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Fire History

EAGLE-SNOWSHOE CONSERVATION RESERVE FIRE HISTORY



Woodland Caribou Signature Site

0 2 4 8 Km

Scale: 1:150,000

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Projection: UTM Grid Zone 15
Datum: North American Datum 1983
Base Derived From: NRVIS (Natural Resource Values Information System)
Produced by: Red Lake District - KMM

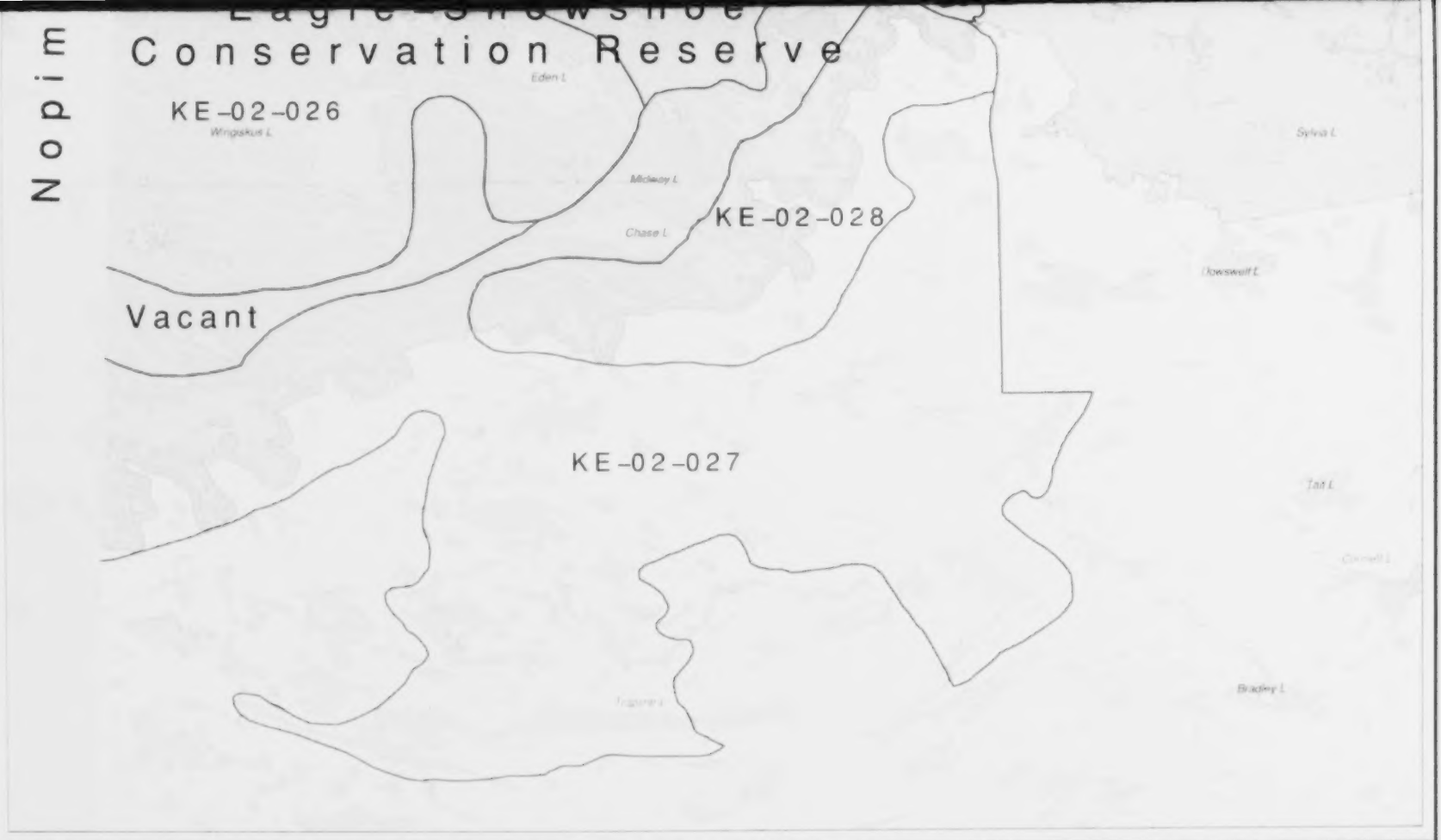
Ontario

Ontario Parks

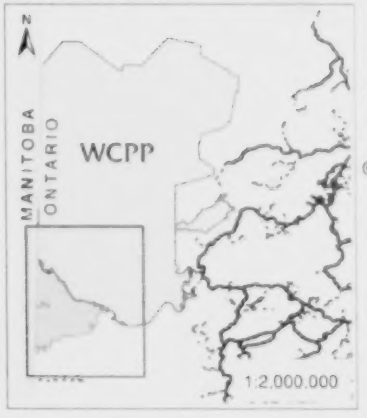
Base Features

- Provincial Boundary
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- River - Stream
- Lake
- Provincial Park
- Manitoba Parks
- Conservation Reserve
- Fire History

Figure 3: Eagle-Snowshoe Conservation Bear Management Areas



EAGLE-SNOWSHOE CONSERVATION RESERVE BEAR MANAGEMENT AREAS



Woodland Caribou Signature Site

0 2 4 8 Km

Scale 1:150,000

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Projection: UTM Grid Zone 15
Datum: North American Datum 1983
Base Derived From: NRVIS (Natural Resource Values Information System)
Produced by: Red Lake District - KMM

Ontario

Ontario Parks

Base Features

- Provincial Boundary
- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- River - Stream
- Lake
- Provincial Park
- Manitoba Parks
- Conservation Reserve
- Bear Management Area

estone Bay–McIntosh Enhanced Management Area (E2359r)

Resource Management Guideline

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Dear Sir or Madam:

We are pleased to present the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area Preliminary Resource Management Guideline for your review and comment.

Once approved, the final resource management guideline will provide land use and resource management policies for the conservation and development of natural resources in the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area.

All comments or suggestions regarding this preliminary guideline or any other aspects of the planning exercise are welcome.

Your comments will be carefully considered in the preparation of the final Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area Resource Management Guideline.

Thank you for your continued interest.

Yours truly,

Graeme Swanwick
District Manager
Red Lake District
Ministry of Natural Resources

06.05.15
Date

Charlie Lauer
Regional Director
Northwest Region
Ministry of Natural Resources

May 19, 2006
Date

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1.0 Introduction

The Pipestone Bay – McIntosh Enhanced Management Area (EMA) is a recreation category EMA within the Red Lake Administrative District of the Ministry of Natural Resources (see fig. EMA-1). This EMA is part of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site, one of nine featured areas under *Ontario's Living Legacy (OLL) Land Use Strategy* announced in 1999. It was chosen because of its important natural and cultural heritage values, and its significant recreation potential including its role in supporting existing remote resourced based tourism. As such, it has potential to make lasting contributions to Ontario's landscape, biodiversity and economy.

The Signature Site consists of the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (wilderness class), four proposed park additions, the adjacent Eagle–Snowshoe Conservation Reserve and the Pipestone–McIntosh Enhanced Management area, a complex consisting of over 537,585 hectares of lands and waters in Ontario's boreal forest region.

All industrial activities permitted within EMAs such as forestry and mining will be conducted with careful consideration for the park's wilderness values and remote tourism potential. The management of these protected and enhanced management areas will help ensure the ecological and economic health of the Woodland Caribou Signature Site, and its surrounding communities, for future generations.

This document has been developed to provide management direction for the EMA that is consistent with the Woodland Caribou Signature Site Strategy and the overall objectives for the recreation category of this EMA.

2.0 Description

The Pipestone Bay –McIntosh EMA is 22,281 hectares in size, is situated 20 kilometers west of Red Lake, and within the Red Lake Forest and Whiskey Jack Forest Management Units. It is comprised of 2 separate areas of land:

- The larger portion to the west and north of Red Lake, adjacent to the existing Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and proposed additions is 19,273 ha in size; and,
- A smaller area to the southeast near Onnie Lake that abuts the existing park is 3,008 ha in size.

The *Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* indicates that recreation EMAs are intended to protect remote recreation values. These areas will be managed to provide high-quality recreation, and protection of resource-based tourism and natural values within a remote or semi remote forested setting, while also permitting sustainable business and industrial activities.

The original designation announced in 1999 under OLL was for a remote access category EMA. After careful consideration of the history of this area, the land use intent, and the management direction for access developed through the signature site planning process, the enhanced management area has been proposed as a recreation category EMA. The direction for this EMA will continue to provide the public and tourism operators with high-quality remote recreational experiences including hunting, fishing, canoeing, and camping. Access into the area will be carefully planned to avoid undesirable impact on park and tourism values, and the headwaters of the Bloodvein River. This area will play a significant role in protecting wilderness values outside the parks and protected areas system while permitting public use of new roads except to access Woodland Caribou Provincial Park or recommended additions outside access zones designated in the park. The Onnie Lake portion of the EMA will continue to have road use restrictions on all new roads.

The Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA falls entirely within treaty #3 and supports many Anishinaapek traditional pursuits such as trapping, hunting, fishing, and berry picking. Four traplines intersect throughout the EMA and are currently held by both native and non-native trappers. Historically, this EMA is important for its link to the Bloodvein River and Gammon River systems which were main travel routes for the Anishinaapek people moving through or living in the Red Lake area.

The Bloodvein River system is 300 km long and runs from northwestern Ontario to the mouth of Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba. The source itself comes from the Berens River Plateau. The river is a link between two vast wilderness parks: Woodland Caribou Provincial Park in Ontario and Atikaki Provincial Park in Manitoba. Manitoba and Ontario supported the designation of the Bloodvein River as a Canadian Heritage River System in the mid-1980's.

This EMA is also located in a part of Ontario that has a diversity of earth and life science features (e.g., prairie boreal features), as well as wildlife, tourism, recreation and cultural heritage values (see fig. EMA-3).

A large forest fire in 1986 has characterized the landscape, which is now comprised of approximately 70 percent old burn consisting of primarily jack pine forest regeneration and sparse deciduous growth. The south western portion is dominated by older jack pine forest (1974 burn) with feather moss ground cover and extensive lichen on the open bedrock areas. A small portion of the south central portion, east of McIntosh Lake to Sullivan Lake and south to the park boundary, is comprised of a mixed upland forest. Two small stands of red pine exist on the north and western shores of Pipestone Bay. For Ontario, this species is at its northerly limit of its range.

The forest-dwelling woodland caribou is also found throughout the EMA. Winter habitat capability is more prevalent in the northern portion of the EMA and will be able to support wintering populations of caribou once the forest matures in approximately 40 years time. Moose are currently the primary ungulate due to the forest age class and the abundance of hardwood browse resulting from the 1986 burn.

Commercial forest harvesting continues to occur within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA through direction provided by the Red Lake Forest and the Whiskey Jack Forest Management Plans. Much of the merchantable area has been harvested recently, (between 1999 and 2002), with approximately 1,460 hectares around McIntosh Lake and 880 hectares near Onnie Lake. The forest management plan provides direction on the management of wildlife habitat, the protection of cool and cold water fisheries habitat as well as water quality issues. Tourism interests are negotiated through tourism agreements (Resource Stewardship Agreements) which in the past have included seasonal harvest and road use restrictions around the Douglas Lake area.

In addition, portions of the EMA contain areas of significant high mineral potential. An area of interest is the Greenstone belt containing gold, volcanic massive sulfides, gabbro hosted copper-nickel deposits and iron which extends from Red Lake into the EMA, much of which is either under patent or leasehold title, or as staked claims on Crown Land. Mining exploration is continuing in the area, including exploration for platinum group metals on patented claims within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh that have previously yielded copper, nickel and zinc. Approximately 23 to 27 active mining claims are located in the EMA.

2.1 Boundary

The Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA boundary has been designed to protect the headwaters of the Bloodvein River while recognizing the importance of the area for mining and commercial forest interests. The boundary borders the eastern edge of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park (WCPP) including a small Forest Reserve designation adjacent to WCPP. Forest reserves are designations provided to areas where protection is a priority, but some resource use can take place with appropriate conditions. The Forest reserve designation attached to WCPP recognizes an active mining claim with the intention that the area will be added to the park once the claim is rescinded through normal processes.

The original extent (as described in the Ontario Living Legacy Land Use Strategy 1999) of the Woodland Caribou Forest Reserve has been reduced through the Woodland Caribou Signature Site planning process, resulting in some boundary modifications in the Douglas Lake and Onnie Lake areas (see discussion on Forest Reserve "disentanglement" in the Signature Site Strategy document, page 9).

In the area to the north of the Signature Site and North of the area of undertaking, a new land use planning initiative for the Whitefeather Forest and Adjacent area planning area is underway where new land use dedications are being proposed that could include extending the current Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA north to encompass the entire headwaters of the Bloodvein River watershed.

The EMA also overlaps with a Non Resident of Canada Regulated Crown Land Camping Zone (Green Zone) covering the Onnie Lake and McIntosh Lake portion of this site (see fig. EMA-4).

3.0 Land Use Direction

3.1 Access

The proposed classification of recreation for the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA is intended to maintain the remote character and to protect natural and backcountry recreational values of areas in and adjacent to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park. These values include the headwater streams of the Bloodvein River watershed, woodland caribou winter range, Pipestone Bay –Lund Lake portage, remote tourism values within the park and the adjacent provincially significant Eagle-Finlayson moraine.

Access to the northern portion of Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA occurs from the McIntosh Road via the Pine Ridge Road primary forest access road and was constructed primarily as a forest resource road to access the western portion of the Red Lake Forest Management Unit. This road is located through the middle of the EMA. Although access to Woodland Caribou Provincial Park was prohibited on this road, through the signature site planning process, this is being changed somewhat. Access is permitted to the head waters of the Bloodvein River system at the Lund Lake access zone in a recommended park addition (Peisk Lake) via the Pine Ridge Road. Access to WCPP beyond the Lund Lake access zone via the Pine Ridge Road continues to be prohibited; however, activities other than access to WCPP are permitted on existing roads.

This road access is also used by the mining industry for mineral exploration and provides access for many recreational purposes such as fishing, hunting, gathering and fuel wood harvest. Other low maintenance forest access roads provide access to most of the lakes in the EMA.

New roads within this portion of the EMA will also be available for recreational activities except where tourism values and natural and cultural heritage values within the park and the EMA are at risk. Road use strategies will be implemented to protect these values and include restrictions through signage, natural traps, removal or abandonment. (See also access strategies sect 5.1.1).

Access to the northern portion of the EMA can also be achieved along the historical portage route connecting Pipestone Bay of Red Lake through to Lund Lake.

The southern portion of the EMA located around Onnie Lake includes Douglas Creek north to Johnson Lake and incorporates the Forest Reserve that has recently been released through the disentanglement process. Access to this area can be achieved by the Suffel Lake primary forest access road at Johnson Lake which is also a designated access zone for the WCPP. Other designated access zones (portages) occur through Douglas Lake from Trout Bay of Red Lake to Onnie Lake and directly from the Suffel Lake road into Onnie Lake. The Onnie Lake canoe route connects with the Hjalmar Lakes before entering the park (see park plan for discussion on access zones). Existing authorized access will continue. Public use of new roads in this area will not be permitted. Public access will be directed through use of signage, natural traps, road removal or abandonment

Forestry, mining, aggregate extraction and hydroelectric development may occur in this EMA. The remote character will be retained through planning and establishing standards for the location and the use or abandonment of roads and trails. Roads for industrial and commercial use are permitted; however, their standards should be lower than those governing primary access roads.

4.0 Crown Land Disposition and Development

The management intent is to protect the remote nature of the EMA. However, the need for improved parking areas associated with the designated WCPP access zones at Johnson Lake and Lund Lake will be evaluated as use patterns increase in these areas. Presently there is very little development in the EMA and any future development will be approached strategically in order to maintain and protect features of biological, cultural tourism, and recreational value.

4.1 Management Direction

Crown land disposition will generally be discouraged. Proposals that can demonstrate compatibility with the land use intent of this EMA for remoteness, recreation and protection of values will be considered (see appendix B for a summary of permitted uses).

4.1.1 Tourism Development

There are no tourism facilities within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA however; there are two main base lodges adjacent to the EMA. One is located on Douglas Lake within Woodland Caribou Provincial Park and the other is located at Bow Narrows at the west end of Red Lake. Both tourism operations also provide canoe outfitting services and promote the historical portage routes through the EMA into Woodland Caribou Park.

New opportunities for sport fishing related resource-based tourism in this area are limited by the number of lakes large enough to support this venture and will not be considered. However, new resourced based hunting and eco-tourism opportunities are possible and may be considered for this EMA. All new development proposals or dispositions will be evaluated for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values. Existing commercial boat caches will be permitted to remain.

4.1.2 Other Crown Land Dispositions

The disposition of Crown land for residential development or cottages will not be permitted in the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA. Disposition and development of Crown land may be considered for other activities that are consistent with the management intent of the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA.

5.0 Commercial Activities

A range of commercial activities occur contributing to the economic health of the area.

5.1 Management Direction

5.1.1 Forest Operations

The EMA falls within the Red Lake Forest Management Unit and a small area of the Whiskey Jack Forest at the south end of the Onnie Lake portion. These areas will continue to be available for forest management purposes.

Forest management activities must be carried out in a manner consistent with the overall intent for the Enhanced Management Area and the direction contained in this document. Key considerations include protecting woodland caribou winter range, the headwaters of the Bloodvein River, reducing stream crossings, and limiting access through strategic road design.

With regard to access for forest management operations, the overall intent is to limit, within operational constraints, the number, duration and standard of roads built in the EMA, and to limit the number of accessible roadbeds remaining after operations are complete. Roads will be planned and constructed to the lowest standard possible (including but not necessarily winter roads only), taking into account economic and operational requirements. New permanent roads are not permitted. Roads will be abandoned through a variety of means when no longer required for forestry activities, in accordance with the use management strategy for each road. New roads for second chance harvest should be directed to existing roadbeds where possible, with road location and construction facilitating access controls and abandonment. Road abandonment will normally include removing all culverts and bridges from crossings and in most cases will require making the road impassable by ditching, scarifying or creating a berm.

All new forest access roads will be planned to ensure abandonment when silvicultural and renewal activities are completed. The minimization of stream crossings is intended to protect the quality of the water and the fish habitat they encompass. New roads must be planned through comprehensive long-term access planning that considers the values of the area including future woodland caribou winter habitat.

Some guidelines are:

- roads should be constructed to the lowest standard possible;
- new roads/trails should be directed to existing corridors where possible;
- layout should consider aesthetics and woodland caribou habitat mosaic design; and,
- design and construction should facilitate access controls and closure/rehabilitation.

Values identified in the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA that are affected by forest management activities will be protected through Area of Concern planning as a part of forest management planning. Prescriptions for these areas will reflect the overall land use intent of the enhanced management area and its contribution to the signature site.

Salvage operations for insect damage, blow down, and fire events will be permitted through the appropriate forest management planning and approval process.

5.1.2 Mineral Exploration

Mineral exploration and extraction are permitted in this Enhanced Management Area. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) have developed the *Guidelines for Exploration Best Practices in Enhanced Management Areas in Ontario* (2002). These Guidelines describe a number of "best practices" which all prospectors and exploration companies will be encouraged to follow, in order to minimize potential negative impacts on the environment (See Appendix A). The "best practices" guidelines give information on how to address issues such as: road/trail building, working close to water, abandonment procedures and camp operations.

Where approval is permitted for exploration activities, a protocol will be implemented to ensure that critical up-to-date values information is provided to the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines by the Ministry of Natural Resources. This information will help prospectors and developers to conduct their activities without negatively impacting known values.

5.1.3 Aggregate Extraction

At present there are no commercial aggregate operations within the EMA. New aggregate extraction within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA will be limited to those needed for the construction and maintenance of forest access roads, and for mining exploration and development. No commercial aggregate operations for other activities will be permitted.

Aggregate supplies may be extracted from gravel pits within the road right-of-way or within areas approved for allocations, where required for the construction and maintenance of forest access roads within the EMA. In the cases where sufficient aggregate supplies are not available, aggregate may be extracted outside of the road right-of-way or approved allocations through the standard permitting process currently in place. Any pits will be rehabilitated at the end of the period of use.

Aggregate operations will not be permitted within 200m of any shoreline or waterway.

5.1.4 Peat Extraction

At present there is no commercial peat extraction within the EMA. Commercial peat extraction opportunities are limited and new proposals within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA will not be permitted.

5.1.5 Bait Fishing

Six commercial bait fish blocks intersect with this EMA and this activity will be permitted to continue. Access by snow machines and all terrain vehicles on existing trails, and access to baitfish lakes through boat caches or by aircraft will continue to be permitted in the EMA. New trails and resource harvester boat cache requests that are required to pursue these activities will be evaluated for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.

5.1.6 Fur Harvesting

Fur harvesting activities, represented by four traplines, occur within the EMA and will be permitted to continue (see fig. EMA-2). Access by snow machines and all terrain vehicles on existing trails, and access to traplines from a boat caches or by aircraft will continue to be permitted. New trails and resource harvester boat cache requests that are required to pursue these activities will be evaluated for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.

Vacant lines will be offered first to First Nations within the respective treaty areas of Treaty 3 and Treaty 5.

5.1.7 Bear Management Areas

There are four bear management areas under agreement within the EMA that provide bear hunting opportunities for non residents of Canada (see fig. EMA-2). This activity is permitted to continue. Existing boat caches for this activity will be permitted to remain and new boat cache requests will be evaluated for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values. Opportunities for new Bear Management Areas are not available. Transfer in BMA ownership will be considered if this activity (bear hunting) is compatibility with existing natural heritage and cultural values.

5.1.8 Wild Rice Harvesting

There are presently no wild rice areas licensed for harvest within the EMA. Wild rice lakes exist adjacent to the EMA on Pipestone Bay and the Crystal Lake area. New opportunities for commercial wild rice harvesting will be considered for First Nation's people (subject to existing policy direction).

6.0 Crown Land Recreation

There are many recreational activities that occur within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA. These include Crown Land camping, hunting, fishing, gathering, snowmobiling and others.

6.1 Management Direction

6.1.1 Crown Land Recreation

Promotion of back-country activities such as Crown land camping, canoeing, skiing, snowshoeing, berry picking, fuel wood harvest, angling and hunting will continue. Public travel by vehicle, snowmobile and ATV will continue to be permitted along existing road networks and trails. Proposals for new winter recreational trails by Red Lake area snowmobile clubs will be considered for the northern portion of this EMA only. Trail layout and design will be evaluated for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.

Existing resident and commercial boat caches are permitted to continue within the EMA. New boat cache requests will be evaluated for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.

Use of the McIntosh Road via the Pine Ridge Road will be permitted for recreational activities; however, the use of this road system to access Woodland Caribou Provincial Park is permitted only at the Lund Lake access trail. New roads proposed for this area will remain open for public travel unless this access is considered a threat to values within the EMA or adjacent park land. (See strategies in section 3.1 and 5.1.1). New roads within the Onnie Lake portion of this EMA will not be available for public vehicle travel.

The EMA boundary also includes a portion of the regulated Non Resident of Canada Crown Land Camping Zone (Green Zone). Overnight camping by non residents of Canada is not permitted within this zone. This area has been designated to protect the Onnie Lake fishery and existing tourism establishments connected to this waterway (see fig.EMA-4). Although Onnie Lake and the Douglas Creek system is a convenient stop over location before entering or leaving the park, guests are not permitted to over night. Non residents of Canada using this access point to enter or exit the park are required to plan appropriately to avoid overnight camping within this zone. Accommodation for over night stays must be at a tourism facility or a location outside of the zone.

6.1.2 Hunting

Hunting will continue as a permitted use in the EMA.

The Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA falls under the Wildlife Management Unit 2. Moose, Bear, and grouse hunting are the primary game in the area. This area receives more hunters than any other area in the signature site due to its accessibility by road.

6.1.3 Angling

Angling is a permitted activity within the Enhanced Management Area.

The EMA is located in Fishing Division 31. Most lakes in the EMA are significant cool water fisheries habitat and are accessible by logging roads.

6.1.4 Other Recreation

There is a historical portage route connecting Douglas Lake to Onnie and Hjalmar Lakes once used by early fur traders, which is of significant recreational value. This portage will be maintained as access into Woodland Caribou Provincial Park for continued use for back-country canoeing and hiking in the area.

7.0 Plan Review and Amendment

There is no intent to carry out a comprehensive review of the Pipestone Bay –McIntosh EMA at any prescribed interval. Using adaptive management, the resource management policies in this document will be kept current through periodic amendments resulting from changes in government policy, new resource information or in response to public comment.

Proposed amendments must not alter the overall intent of the EMA. An amendment to the plan may be requested at any time and the District Manager will decide whether or not to consider it. Requests for amendments must be based in fact, relate to the scope of the EMA, respond to changing resource conditions, new information, changing government policies, and public need. In addition, the MNR also has the authority to initiate amendments in response to new information or changed conditions (For more information, please obtain a copy of *Procedures for the Amendment of Area-specific Crown Land Use Policy*).

Amendments will be classified as either minor or major. Minor amendments are changes that do not have a negative effect on the public, major stakeholders, or the environment and are generally administrative in nature. Minor amendments will be approved by the District Manager and will not normally be subject to public consultation.

Major amendments are those that have a significant social, economic, and/or environmental impact. Major amendments will be reviewed by the District Manager and submitted to the Regional Director for approval. Public consultation will occur for all major amendments and notice of all major amendments will be posted on the Environmental Bill of Rights (EBR) electronic registry.

8.0 Summary

The Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA contributes significantly to the management and protection of values associated with Woodland Caribou Provincial Park while acknowledging the value of recreation for the residents of the Red Lake area. In addition, this EMA also provides a new road access option to the north east corner of the park and in particular to the headwaters of the Bloodvein River system.

The draft Land Use Strategy for the Whitefeather Forest and Adjacent Areas (EBR # PB03E1003 Nov 7, 2005) proposed increasing the area of the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA northward to fully include the headwaters of the Bloodvein River watershed. This is also an important step to acknowledging the importance of this large river system.

The EMA is also an area of high mineral potential with active mineral exploration. The conservation and the protection of EMA values, potentially impacted by this activity, will rely on a working relationship with the mineral sector and the development of a protocol to ensure "best practices" are carried out during exploration work.

Success in maintaining the ecological integrity of this area and its remoteness will be achieved through an adaptive management approach. As new information is brought forward regarding areas of mineral exploration, forest harvest and access roads, as well as new flora and fauna values, this document will serve as the direction and guidance for addressing operational concerns around sensitive areas. It will also contribute to the overall protection of the signature site values and features.

Appendix A: Guidelines for Exploration Best Practices in Enhanced Management Areas

Introduction

These guidelines affirm the mineral exploration industry's commitment to sustainable development, a concept that requires balancing the need for economic growth with good stewardship in the protection of human health and the natural environment. The guidelines offer practical methods and best practices which, when applied, will ensure that an exploration project is carried out with the lowest levels of disturbance possible to its natural surroundings within Enhanced Management Areas (EMAs). The suggested guidelines do not take precedence over Ontario statutes and regulations but rather comply with them by providing standard procedures for maintaining good environmental practice at the various stages in the exploration process.

Seven categories of EMA have been defined in Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy. These are defined with the use of subscripts to the acronym EMA, as follows:

- **n** – natural heritage
- **g** – Great Lakes coastal areas
- **r** – recreation
- **t** – resource based tourism
- **a** – remote access
- **i** – intensive forestry
- **w** – fish and wildlife

The following prescriptions are extracted from the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* document released in July 1999:

> ***Land Use Designation Enhanced Management Area***
>
> *"Enhanced Management Areas is a new land use category that has been established in order to provide more detailed land use direction in areas of special feature or values."*
>
> *"Enhanced Management Areas may lead to modifications (e.g. timing, location, method, and access) in resource-management practices in order to recognize other land use values. These adjustments will be implemented with no impact on wood supply, and only in exceptional cases will wood costs be affected. EMAs will provide a specific focus for the application of guidelines and other planning and management strategies. More detailed implementation strategies will be developed with the participation of stakeholders."*

Explorationists should ensure that they have an up to date EMA Values Maps for the EMA within which they are conducting exploration activities. EMA Values Maps will be provided to the explorationist by the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The exploration community should ensure that they identify any natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values within their exploration area of interest. By following the suggested guidelines contained herein, members of the Ontario exploration industry may carry out their work in the search for new wealth in enhanced management areas with confidence that they are doing so in an environmentally sensitive manner.

Protecting Values in Enhanced Management Areas

Careful regard and avoidance of impact is strongly recommended to protect all values in Enhanced Management Areas (EMA). This document includes Area of Concern (A.O.C.) prescriptions for protecting fish and wildlife values (Appendix 1). The A.O.C. prescriptions are found within forest management plans

written for all forest management units in Ontario under the terms of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act. All EMAs are found within forest management units. The A.O.C. prescriptions are legally binding on forest companies as they conduct timber harvest, silviculture and forest regeneration activities. The A.O.C. prescriptions have been adopted for fish and wildlife values which may be encountered by the exploration community in EMAs. To protect other values (e.g. cultural and heritage) encountered during exploration activities it is strongly recommended that site specific measures be developed on a case by case basis in consultation with the MNR.

Observe the following points in the management of your exploration program:

1. Be aware of the three Rs of exploration and practice them at every stage of your exploration program RESPECT the environment in which you work. REFRAIN from unnecessarily disturbing the natural environment. RESTORE the natural setting of areas where you have worked.
2. Ensure that workers are familiar with environmental protection measures and industrial hygiene requirements. Make sure that they are aware of regulatory requirements and environmental codes and are also properly trained to carry out any procedures pertaining to environmentally related situations.
3. In the event of a proposed program of advanced exploration under Part 7 of the Mining Act, conduct environmental baseline studies, consisting of water, soil and, if necessary, lake bottom sampling, prior to any major disturbance of the natural surroundings. These baseline data are essential for the monitoring of the property during its later development.
4. Ensure that your exploration program is designed and budgeted to take into account all potential sensitivities associated with fish and fish habitat, wildlife, downstream water users, marshes and wetlands, native lands, archaeological sites and all other Crown land values and user groups. Be aware that exploration activities undertaken in or close to marshes, bogs, lakes, streams and rivers require special care and planning. Communication with the District Biologist at the local MNR office is strongly recommended.

Observe the following procedures and practices during each stage of your exploration program.

Field Reconnaissance

1. Be familiar with all statutes, regulations, amendments, and guidelines governing all aspects of mineral exploration in the area in which you are working (Appendix 2). In the event of proposed activities that exceed allowable disturbances under Part 7 of the Mining Act, consult with the Mineral Development Coordinator, MNDM. Before the start of an advanced exploration program, ensure that all necessary permits have been acquired and are in place. Be aware of the location of all natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values in the area of your proposed work operations. These are found on the EMA Values Maps as supplied through the Resident Geologist Office and the office of the Regional Land Use Geologist, MNDM, in cooperation with the MNR. Ensure that you have a copy of the EMA Values Map for your area even if you have not been contacted.
2. Ensure that all employees, including contractors, stakers etc. hired for an exploration project, are trained in and knowledgeable about identification of sensitive natural values, environmental protection measures and industrial hygiene requirements. Make sure that they are familiar with regulatory requirements and environmental codes (Appendix 1, 2) and are properly trained to carry out procedures pertaining to environmental protection and remediation.
3. Ensure that contractors and subcontractors know their responsibilities and liabilities and that they discharge their duties correctly.
4. Minimize disturbance to forestry plantation areas by respecting fences and gates. Observe all signs posted by landowners, forestry licence holders and respect the rights of others.
5. Avoid unnecessary disturbance of vegetation and wildlife. Keep vehicles on established roads whenever possible. Obtain permission and guidance from landowners or forest licence holders when travel to off-road sites is necessary.
6. In principle, carry out what you carry in. Use proper receptacles for refuse and try to leave an area cleaner than it was upon your arrival. With proper

approvals, reusable items such as lumber, frames, floors, etc., may be neatly piled and stored at the site.

7. Check for local MNR regulations governing the lighting of fires. The lighting of fires may be prohibited at certain times of the year. Ensure that appropriate fire fighting equipment in quantities appropriate to the number of personnel and type of activity is available on site.
8. Ensure that temporary work camps are located, constructed and operated in such a way that they will have the minimum impact on the environment. Always keep camps neat, orderly, safe and clean and in accordance with local regulations.
9. Avoid any disturbance to community watersheds, fisheries habitat, upwellings and spawning beds by familiarizing yourself with their location (Appendix 1). Do not operate vehicles or heavy equipment in streams or on stream or pond banks. Keep to a minimum any clearing, grubbing, excavating or other surface disturbances near streams and ponds. If such activity is proposed, preserve a natural buffer zone of undisturbed natural vegetation at least 10 metres wide or wider at the water's edge to prevent siltation. If in doubt, contact your local MNR Biologist.
10. Handle all fuel and hazardous materials with care and avoid spills by ensuring that they are stored properly. Control any spills and/or leaks by establishing berms around storage containment areas and by placing water pumps and portable operating equipment in metal drip trays. In the event of a spill, notify the Ministry of the Environment and MNR as soon as possible.
11. Use on-site field vehicles and equipment for exploration activities only. Avoid unnecessary disturbance to nearby residents and wildlife.

Property Acquisition

1. Investigate and understand the current status of surface and mineral rights before you take action to acquire a property. Be familiar with those regulations and mining laws governing the acquisition of property as outlined in the Ontario Mining Act. Be familiar with the *Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy* provisions for withdrawal from staking of lands intended for new parks and conservation reserves.
2. Be aware of all regulations and laws relating to environmental liabilities before you acquire a property that has been previously mined, explored and/or developed. Consider documenting the environmental condition of the property at the time of acquisition with field notes and photographs.
3. Avoid any misunderstanding with surface rights owners by discussing your presence and plans in the area with them once you have acquired mineral rights. Ascribe to the notification and compensation requirements of Sections 78 and 79 of the Mining Act. Maintain a cordial relationship with local residents and keep them informed during the course of your program.

Campsites

1. Be familiar with and comply with all statutes, regulations, amendments and permit requirements governing the operation of campsites. A temporary encampment may be erected on a mining claim for the purpose of conducting mineral exploration activities. If the campsite is not located on a mining claim, the maximum allowable time for resident camping on crown land is 21 days.
2. Locate your campsite away from watercourses and maintain it in a neat and orderly fashion.
3. Provide sewage treatment facilities capable of servicing the resident and visiting camp population. Ensure that pit privies, conventional septic tank/tile bed systems, and packaged sewage treatment plants are designed, installed, and, where necessary, disposed of in accordance with local regulations. Consult with the local health unit for details.
4. Select and use products that pose the least threat to the environment. Re-use containers as much as possible and whenever appropriate. Ensure that all products, which are recyclable, are taken to a recycling facility.
5. Compost organic kitchen waste. Remove inorganic domestic waste to approved municipal sites, to an approved landfill for the camp, or to a recycling facility. In regions populated by bears, establish a special containment system for kitchen wastes.
6. Confine fuels, lube oils and greases during storage and transportation. Ensure that used oil facilities are established at all permanent sites and are regularly monitored. Collect and remove hazardous

substances used in machinery (such as batteries) to designated disposal facilities.

7. Provide proper first aid and fire protection equipment at the camp and make sure that the equipment complies with current regulations.
8. Make every effort to avoid attracting wildlife to the camp.
9. At the end of operations, dismantle campsites that are to be abandoned. Leave campsites that are to be used for future operations in a clean and tidy condition. Bury organic waste and remove all other refuse from the site, taking advantage of recycling facilities as much as possible. Backfill all pits in accordance with local regulations. Where possible, rip up a site that is to be abandoned to break surface compaction and allow natural re-vegetation to take place.
10. Avoid impacting on natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values as defined by MNR on EMA Values Maps, as supplied by the Resident Geologist Office, MNDM.

Road Building and Access

1. 1.Consult with your local MNR office and initiate Work Permit process for new road construction (requiring roadbed improvement). Be sensitive to the needs of other land users; for example, tourist lodges and resort operators. Trail construction for access to mineral exploration workings (no road bed improvement and under 3 metres in width) does not require a Work Permit.
2. Plan and locate roads and trails to maximum advantage for your operations but with minimum levels of construction and disturbance. Take advantage of landform and vegetation to screen road locations whenever possible. Avoid impacting on all values defined on EMA Values Maps supplied by MNR (Appendix 1).
3. Clear right-of-way timber and debris in an orderly manner. Dispose of debris by a) burning, if permitted; b) burying in off-road push piles, if practicable or c) in a manner prescribed by local regulations. Whenever possible, stack commercial timber so that it can be harvested by pulp or timber companies. Consult with the licensed forest operator in the area prior to constructing your road or trail.
4. Provide for erosion and surface water control by installing culverts, bridges, waterbars, and ditches, whenever necessary. Keep insloping to a minimum, and provide for frequent water diversions off the road when necessary. Remove all unnecessary berms from road edges.
5. Develop a reclamation plan following the detailed road construction guidelines and Work Permit requirements.
6. Avoid impacting on natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values as defined by the Ontario MNR on EMA Values Maps, as supplied by the Resident Geologist Office, MNDM.

Geological, Geochemical and Geophysical Surveys

1. Avoid unnecessary brush cutting and blazing of trees while laying out grid lines. Cut grid lines at the minimum width possible.
2. Upon completion of a survey, remove any wire and other extraneous material that may endanger the lives of birds and other wildlife.
3. Avoid contaminating soil and water during the course of your work.
4. Avoid impacting on natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values as defined by MNR on EMA Values Maps, as supplied by the Resident Geologist Office, MNDM.

Trenching and Stripping

1. Avoid any disturbance to community watersheds, fisheries habitat, upwellings and spawning beds by familiarizing yourself with their location (Appendix 1). Do not operate vehicles or heavy equipment in streams or on stream or pond banks. Keep to a minimum any clearing, grubbing, excavating or other surface disturbances near streams and ponds. If such activity is proposed, preserve a natural buffer zone of undisturbed natural vegetation at least 10 metres wide or wider at the water's edge to prevent siltation. If in doubt, contact your local MNR Biologist.
2. Clear timber and debris in an orderly manner. Dispose of debris by a) burning, if permitted; b) by burying it in off-road push piles, if practicable or c) in a manner prescribed by local regulation. Whenever possible, stack commercial timber so that

it can be harvested by pulp or timber companies. Consult with the licensed forest operator in the area prior to constructing your road or trail.

3. Backfill, cover and revegetate all excavations and other surface disturbances that have not exposed reusable geological information such as outcrop. Avoid excessive stripping by using backhoes or excavators rather than bulldozers whenever possible.
4. If your proposed area of stripping exceeds an area 10,000m2 or is within 100 metres of a waterbody and exceeds an area of 2,500m2, you must file a closure plan under Part 7 of the Mining Act. Contact the Mineral Development Coordinator at the MNDM.
5. Avoid impacting on natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values as defined by MNR on EMA Values Maps, as supplied by the Resident Geologist Office, MNDM.

Drilling

1. Ensure that drilling company workers under contract are aware of current environmental regulations and will comply with them in the course of their work. Clearly define all environmental and industrial hygiene responsibilities, duties and liabilities of the contractor in contractors' agreements.
2. Keep to a minimum any noise pollution produced by equipment.
3. Ensure that contractors avoid impacting on natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation) values as defined by MNR on EMA Values Maps, as supplied by the Resident Geologist Office, MNDM.
4. Locate drill sites and water lines in areas where access to them and their operation will create the least amount of disturbance. Take advantage of local landform and vegetation to screen drilling activities whenever possible.
5. Eliminate the need for elaborate access roads by using the smallest size of drilling equipment and drill holes that will ensure an adequate sampling of the target that you are seeking.
6. Ensure that proper receptacles for debris are provided and used at drill sites and that sites are cleaned up as soon as equipment has been removed.
7. Do not allow drilling wastes to run uncontrolled over land or ice surfaces or into watercourses. Recycle as much drilling mud and water as possible by using tanks or sumps.
8. Avoid wasting water by installing and using shut-off valves when water lines are not in use.
9. Use biodegradable materials whenever possible.
10. Keep on site oil-absorbent material and/or oil booms (depending on the amounts of fuel stored) for use in the event of a spill.
11. Upon completion of drilling, remove the drill casing and cap or plug the drill hole.

Abandonment of Exploration Activity

1. Out slope and remove all berms from roads no longer needed, and install appropriate water barriers and other erosion control structures. Remove culverts, low bridges and other structures that may cause blockage or unwanted diversion of watercourses.
2. Backfill and grade all open excavations such as exploration trenches, adits and shaft waste dumps as close to the original contour as possible. Grade to contour or smooth out drill sites, building sites, roads, or other major disturbances resulting from construction during the exploration program.
3. Cap or plug drill holes and close or otherwise make safe from unauthorized entry, all tunnels, shafts and other openings. Make sure that procedures on site abandonment contained in Part 7 of the Mining Act have been correctly followed.
4. Remove all trash and other foreign material from the exploration area and dispose of in an approved waste disposal site.
5. Where possible and at the proper time of the year, re-vegetate all disturbed surface areas by planting trees which are suitable for the area. In addition or as an alternative, prepare the disturbed surfaces in a way that will encourage maximum natural re-vegetation.
6. Inspect gates and fences used for access to ensure that they have not been damaged.
7. When abandoning exploration sites in claim-staked areas close to settled areas, remove any physical evidence of work such as ribbons and pickets. Be aware that most jurisdictions do not allow staking

posts or survey monuments to be removed.

8. Advise local residents, landowners, native groups and government officials that you are abandoning the site.
9. Avoid impacting on natural heritage, recreational, fish and wildlife, tourism or forestry (e.g. plantation values as defined by the Ontario MNR on EMA Values Maps, as supplied by the Resident Geologist Office, MNDM.

(Modified after the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Guidelines for Exploration Practice, 1998)

Appendix B: Permitted Uses Table

Activity	*Permitted*	*Guidelines*
Lands and Waters Resource Use		
Aggregate Extraction	Yes	New aggregate extraction within the Pipestone Bay – McIntosh EMA will be limited to the construction and maintenance of forest access roads, and for mining exploration and development.
Energy Transmission and Communications Corridors	No	Unless no demonstrated alternatives exist.
Commercial Hydro Development	No	No potential for hydro development exists within EMA.
Mineral Exploration and Development	Yes	Follow "Guidelines for Exploration Best Practices in Enhanced Management Areas" to ensure exploration projects are carried out with the lowest levels of disturbance possible to its natural surroundings.
Peat Extraction	No	
Commercial Tourism		
Existing	No	No facilities exist.
New	Yes	Subject to individual review, a limited number of non-consumptive eco-tourism facilities may be permitted.
Outfitting Services		
Existing	No	New ecotourism opportunities may be considered subject to a screening for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.
New	Yes	
Outpost Camps		
Existing	No	No facilities exist.
New	Yes	Subject to individual review, a limited number of non-consumptive eco-tourism facilities may be permitted.
Resorts/Lodges		
Existing	No	
New	No	
Private Recreation Camps	No	
Campgrounds	No	

Activity	*Permitted*	*Guidelines*
Crown Land Camping		
Resident	Yes	
Non-resident	No	Non resident of Canada are not permitted to camp within the EMA where the Regulated Crown land Camping Zone overlaps this designation. Camping by non residents within the EMA outside of this zone is permitted.
Campsite Designation	No	
Access Roads		
Existing	Yes	Roads for industrial and commercial use are permitted; however, their standards should be lower than those governing primary access roads. New roads must be planned through comprehensive long-term access planning that considers the values of the area. Some guidelines are: ■ roads should be constructed to the lowest standard possible; ■ new roads/trails should be directed to existing corridors where possible; ■ layout should consider aesthetics; and ■ design and construction should facilitate access controls and closure/rehabilitation. Public travel on new roads within the Onnie Lake portion of EMA by motorized vehicles will not be permitted.
New	Yes	
Commercial Boat Caches		
Existing	Yes	New caches may be considered If a net benefit for the Signature Site is demonstrated.
New	Yes	
Resource Harvester Boat Caches		
Existing	Yes	New boat caches will be considered subject to a screening for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.
New	Yes	
Recreation Boat Caches		
Existing	Yes	New boat caches will be considered subject to a screening for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.
New	Yes	
Trail Development		
Existing	Yes	New recreation snowmobile trails may be considered subject to a screening for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.
New	Maybe	

Activity	*Permitted*	*Guidelines*
All Terrain Vehicle Use		
Existing	Yes	
New	Yes	
Snowmobiling	Yes	
Existing	Yes	
New		
Fisheries Resource		
Commercial Fishing	No	
Bait-fish Harvest		
Existing	Yes	
New	N/A	
Sport Fishing	Yes	
Fish Stocking	Maybe	Subject to the Environmental Assessment Act.
Fish Habitat Management	Yes	
Forestry Resources		
Commercial Timber Harvest	Yes	
Fuelwood and other small scale uses	Yes	
Fire Suppression	Yes	According to *Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario.*
Wildlife Resources		
Commercial Fur Harvesting		
Existing	Yes	Trapline boundaries may be amended to create new opportunities through subdividing existing lines.
New	Maybe	
Trap Cabins		
Existing	No	No existing trap cabins
New	Yes	New cabins may be considered subject to a screening for compatibility with natural heritage and cultural values.

Activity	*Permitted*	*Guidelines*
Wild Rice Harvesting	No	Subject to existing policy direction.
Existing	Maybe	
New		
Bear Hunting by Non-residents	Yes	Transfer in BMA ownership will be considered provided this activity (bear hunting) is compatibility with existing natural heritage and cultural values.
Existing		
New	No	
Hunting	Yes	

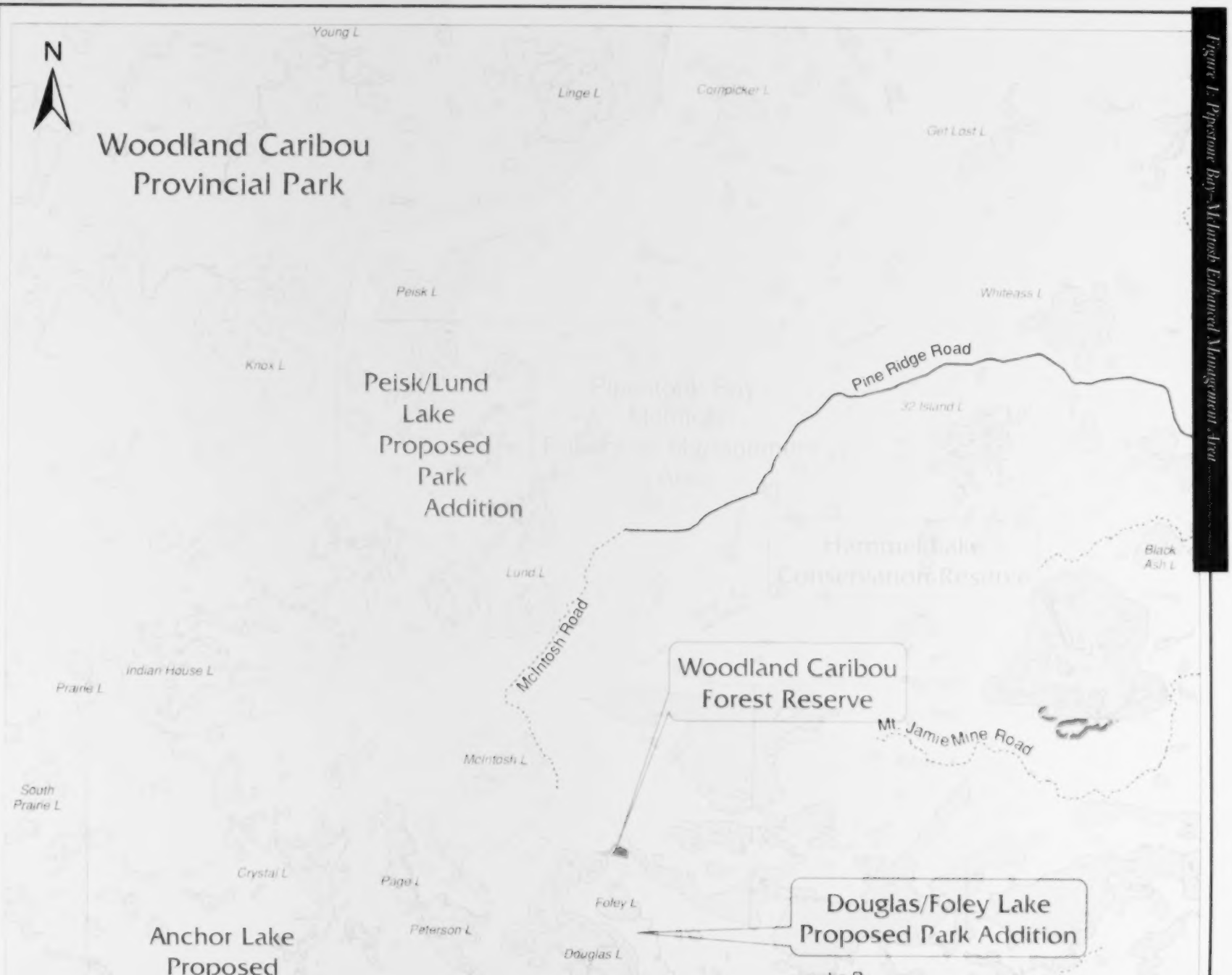
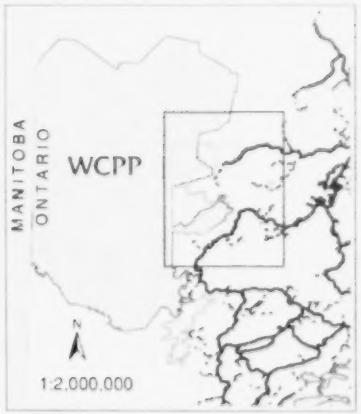


Figure 1: Pipestone Bay-McIntosh Enhanced Management Area

PIPESTONE BAY - MCINTOSH ENHANCED MANAGEMENT AREA



Woodland Caribou Signature Site

0 2.5 5 10 Km

Scale: 1:150,000

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Projection: UTM Grid Zone 15
Datum: North American Datum 1983
Base Derived From: NRVIS (Natural Resource Values Information System)
Produced by: Red Lake District - KMM

Ontario

Ontario Parks

Base Features

- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- River / Stream
- Lake
- Provincial Park
- Proposed Park Addition
- Enhanced Management Area
- Forest Reserve
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Management Unit

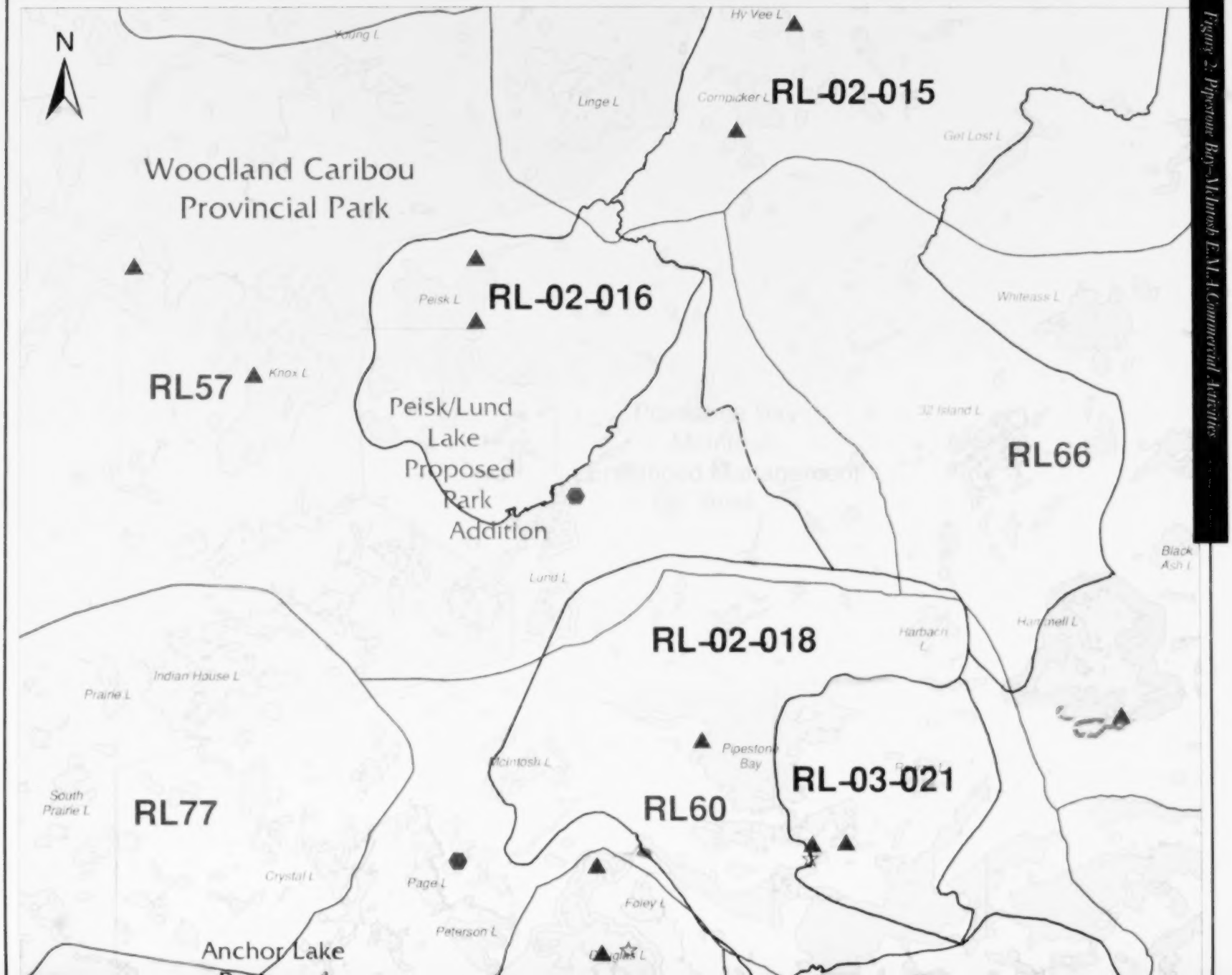
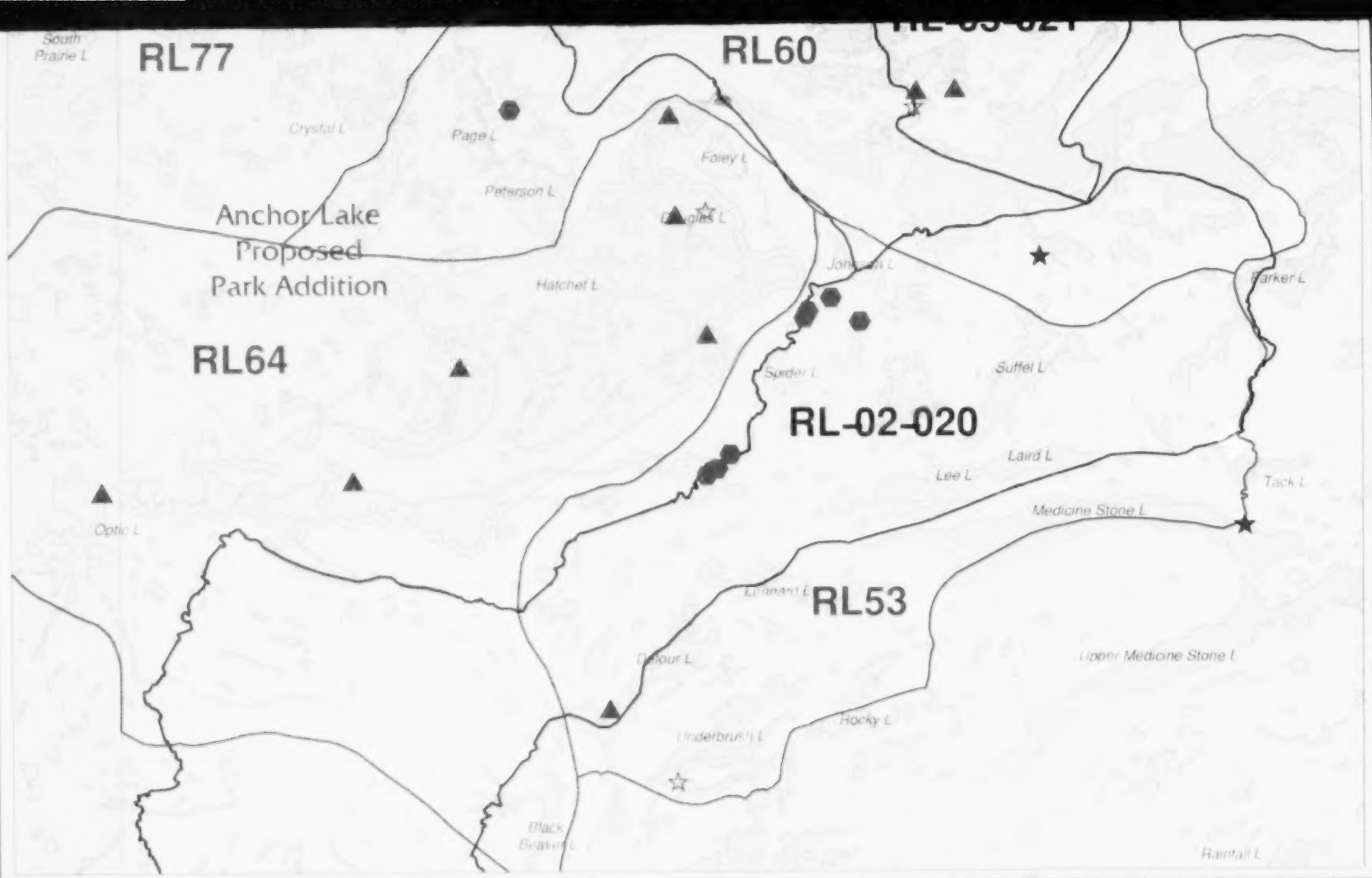
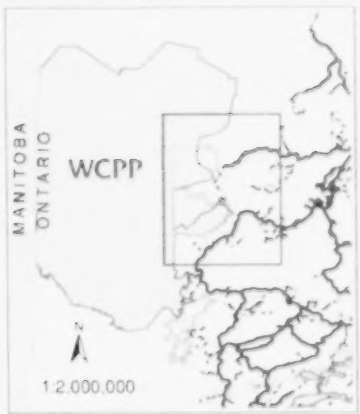


Figure 2: Pipestone Bay–Mclntosh E.M.A Commercial Activities



PIPESTONE BAY - MCINTOSH E.M.A. COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES



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Ontario

Ontario Parks

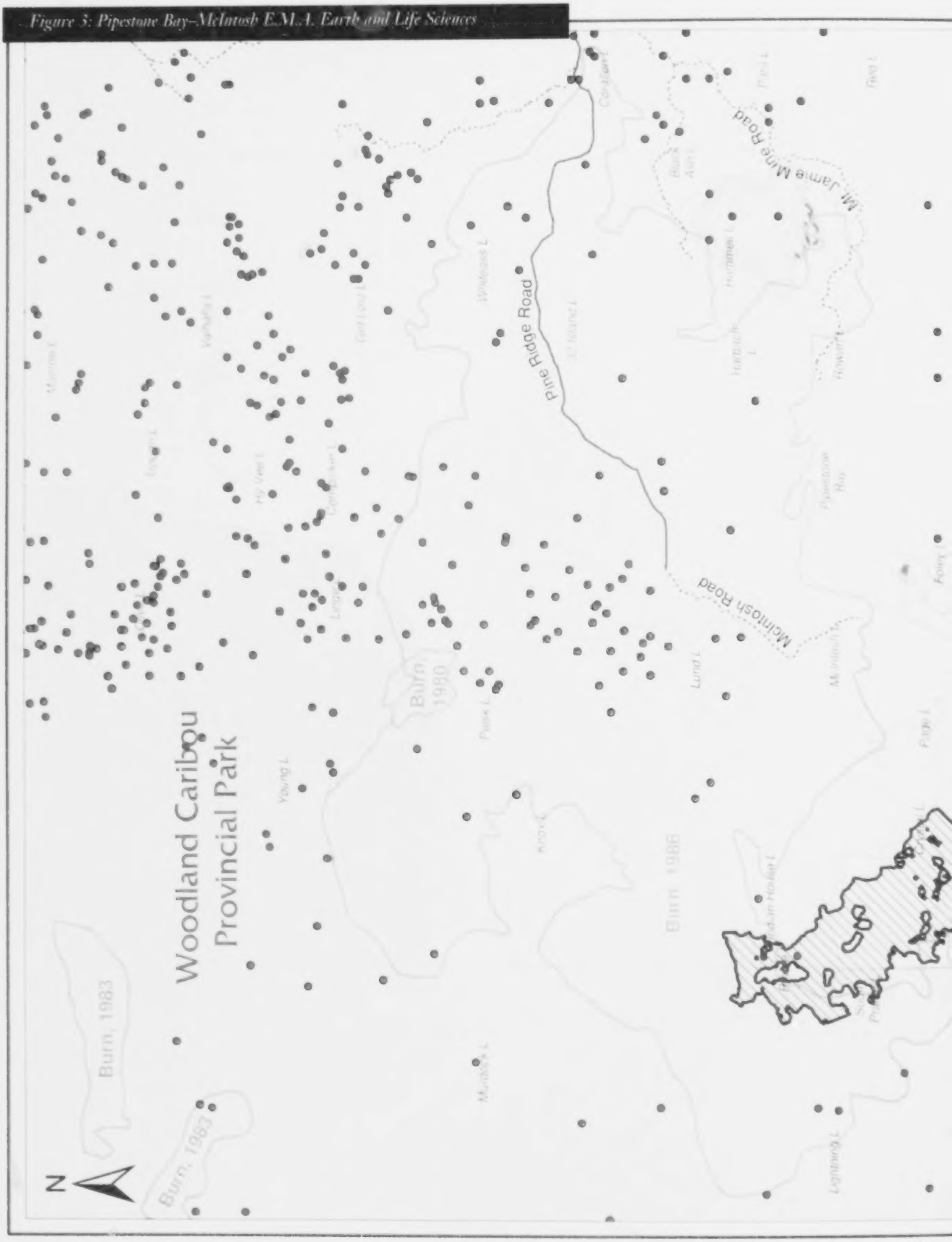
Base Features

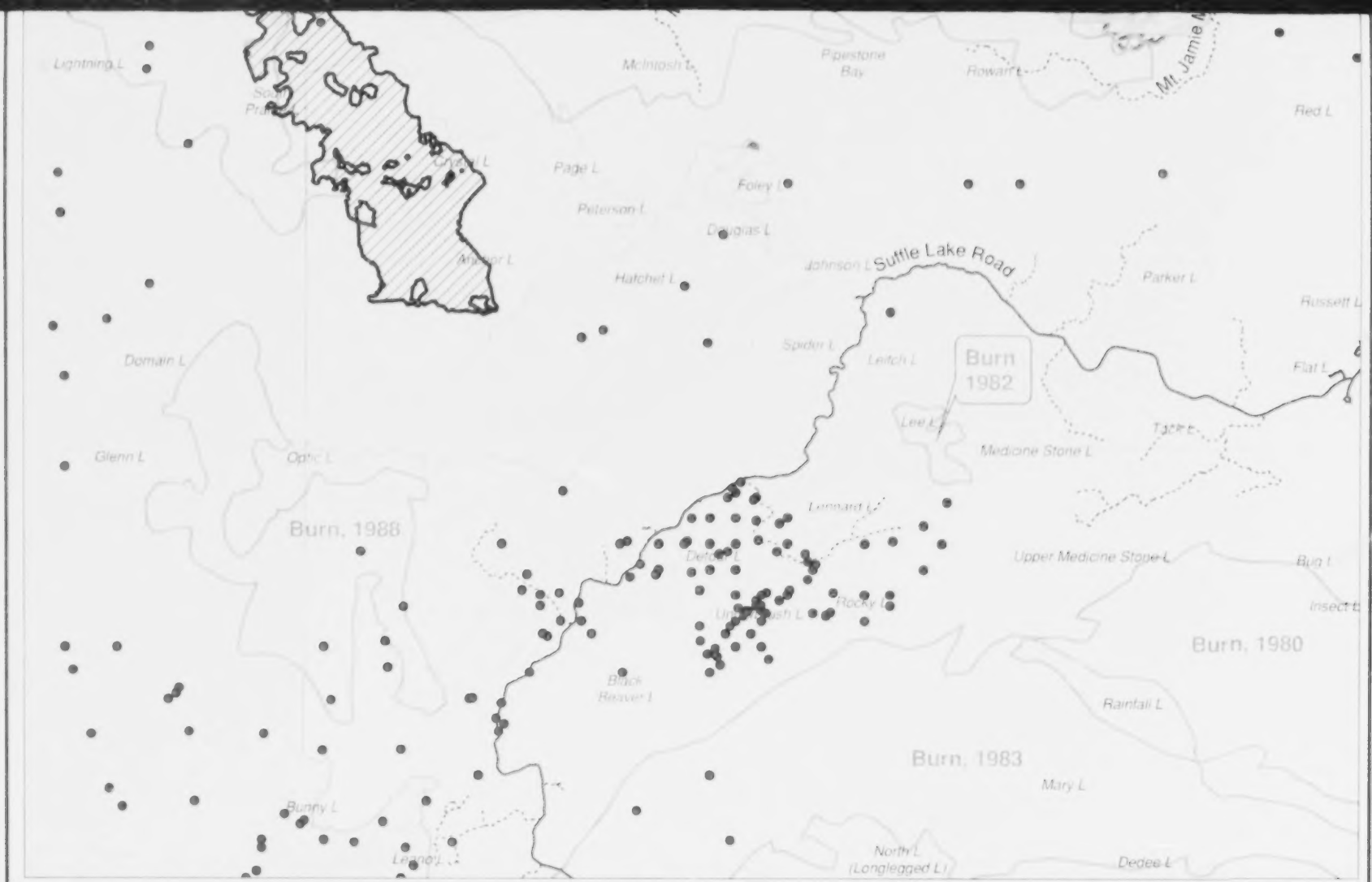
- River - Stream
- Lake
- Provincial Park
- Proposed Park Addition
- Enhanced Management Area
- Forest Reserve
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Management Unit
- Bear Management Area
- Trapline

Land Tenure

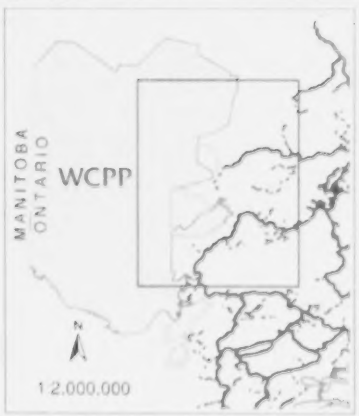
- Main Base Lodge, Not Remote
- Main Base Lodge, Remote
- Outpost, Remote
- Cottage Residential Site
- Boat Cache

Figure 3: Pipestone Bay–McIntosh E.M.A. Earth and Life Sciences





PIPESTONE BAY - MCINTOSH E.M.A. EARTH AND LIFE SCIENCES



Woodland Caribou Signature Site

0 2.5 5 7.5 10 Km

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Ontario

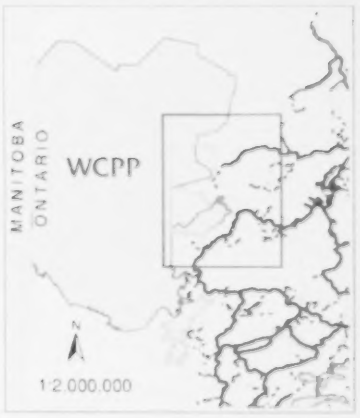
Ontario Parks

Base Features

- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- River - Stream
- Lake
- Provincial Park
- Proposed Park Addition
- Enhanced Management Area
- Forest Reserve
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Management Unit
- Historical Caribou Sightings
- 1980's Fire History
- Eagle - Finlayson Moraine

Figure 4: Pipestone Bay–McIntosh E.M.A. Regulated Crown Land Camping

PIPESTONE BAY - MCINTOSH E.M.A. REGULATED CROWN LAND CAMPING



Woodland Caribou Signature Site

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Ontario

Ontario Parks

Base Features

- Primary Road
- Secondary Road
- River / Stream
- Lake
- Provincial Park
- Proposed Park Addition
- Enhanced Management Area
- Forest Reserve
- Conservation Reserve
- Forest Management Unit

Zoning

- Regulated Crown Land Camping

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